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Holmesdale Towns.

A HANDBOOK FOR

Reigate and
Redhill.



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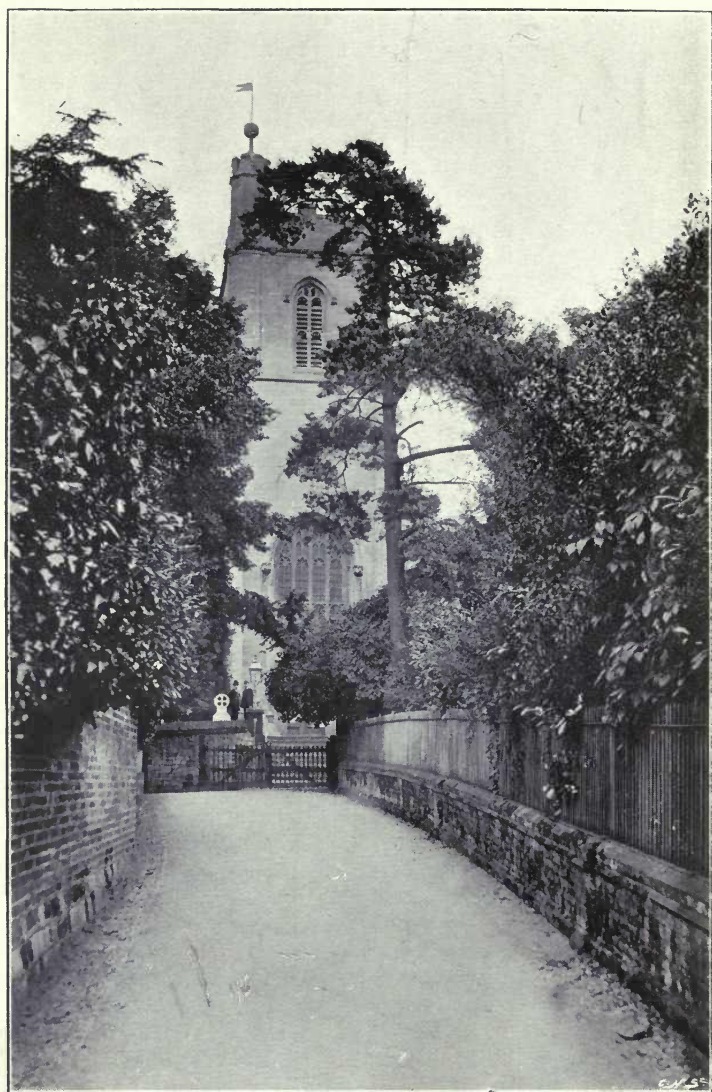


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CHURCH WALK AND REIGATE CHURCH.

[Flint, Redhill.

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Holmesdale Towns:

A HANDBOOK FOR

58299

REIGATE, REDHILL,

AND

Neighbouring Districts.

BY

T. FRANCIS W. HAMILTON.

The world we live in is a fairyland of exquisite beauty.—*Sir J. Lubbock.*

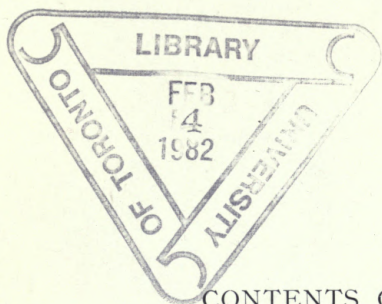
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PREFACE.

THE historical facts herein recorded are mainly derived from Manning and Bray's "History of Surrey" (3 vols. Folio, 1804-12). This valuable work of colossal magnitude represents a vast amount of persevering industry, and bears evidence of a prolonged course of diligent study, extending over a wide field of special research. Brayley's "History of Surrey" (5 vols. 4to, 1844) has been frequently consulted, but the latter standard work is to a considerable extent founded on Manning and Bray; and it is needless to add that all local publications of subsequent date have freely extracted information from the same source.

Topographical features are described as they were actually seen at the time, and presented under favourable conditions.

The archæological details enumerated are in all cases the result of personal observation, aided by the most reliable authorities at present available.

That portion of the geological article which treats the subject from an historical point of view is chiefly based upon the works of Dr. Mantell relating to local geology.

Grateful acknowledgments are due to many whose cheerful help and valuable counsel contributed to render the author's congenial task a pleasant occupation.

T. F. W. H.



CHAPTER I.

HOLMESDALE VALLEY.

The Vale of Holmsdall
Never wonne, ne never shall.—OLD RYTHME.

THE romantic and picturesque valley of Holmesdale, early inherited by a race whose valour and prowess are perpetuated by the famed traditional boast, consists of that narrow tract of fertile country which has the range of Chalk Downs for its northern boundary, and is enclosed on the south by the parallel greensand ridge that terminates eastward at Tilburstow Hill, and attains a much greater elevation in Leith Hill at the opposite extremity. Following these natural frontier lines, we may assume that it extends from Godstone, on the confines of Kent, to a point midway between Dorking and Guildford. To convey some idea of the general aspect of Holmesdale at a remote period, we may quote Camden's brief but graphic description:—"A Valley falling lowe, by little and little, called in times past Holmesdale of the Woods therein, runneth down very pleasant to behold, by reason of the delactable variety of Groves, and Fields, and Meadows. On each side there be prety Hills rising up a great way along the country; Parkes everywhere replenished with Deere; Rivers also full of Fish."

The ancient Roman road, designated Ermyrn Street, which commenced probably at the *Portus Adurni*, or old Shoreham, and terminated upon the eastern coast of Scotland, threw off many branches in its northward progress. One of these, called Stane or Stone Street from the solid construction of flints and stones, proceeded from Chichester through Sussex and Surrey to Dorking and Croydon. Reigate was connected with this road by a minor route that quitted Stone Street at Ockley, a place three miles south of Dorking, and afterwards led in a

north-eastern direction towards Croydon and the Kentish districts. The course of this "gate," or highway, may be traced along the valley by a succession of names indicating the existence of some ancient road, as Newdegate, the "new gate," where it had been repaired; Reigate, or "ridge gate," at the ascent of the Chalk Downs; and Gatton, denoting "the town upon the road."

The great battle of Aclea, at which the predatory Danish forces were defeated by Ethelwulf in 851, has been fixed at Ockley, where the line of Roman road afforded facilities of approach for the victors as well as for the vanquished invaders. After plundering Canterbury and London, the Danes advanced into Surrey, doubtless through the Vale of Holmesdale by way of Gatton. Tradition states that after the signal defeat by the Saxons, the routed army were encountered by the men of Holmesdale from the vantage ground at the western extremity of the Park ridge, and broken into two detachments. The northern division, continuing the flight, are said to have been slaughtered at the ford of a stream south of Gatton, where the place still retains the name of Battlebridge, by the women of the district. The other band are supposed to have been destroyed in a field called "Slaughter Wick," in the parish of Leigh. Kimberham, or Timberham, Bridge, anciently "Kill-man Bridge," a point on the River Mole, is also mentioned as the scene of an onslaught upon the retreating Danes. The remembrance of these victories no doubt inspired feelings of patriotism and pride among the inhabitants of the Vale, and to some extent justified the defiant attitude assumed in later times; but local records are silent as to the effect produced by the appearance of the Norman Conqueror in Holmesdale, when marching in triumph to London after the decisive battle of Hastings.

Reigate in the Middle Ages derived considerable importance from its position on the western line of pilgrimage to the renowned St. Thomas of Canterbury. The route followed by the vast concourse of devotees, composed of foreigners, Irish, Welsh, and west countrymen, who, undeterred by difficulties and privations, eagerly pressed forward to register vows and perform homage at the

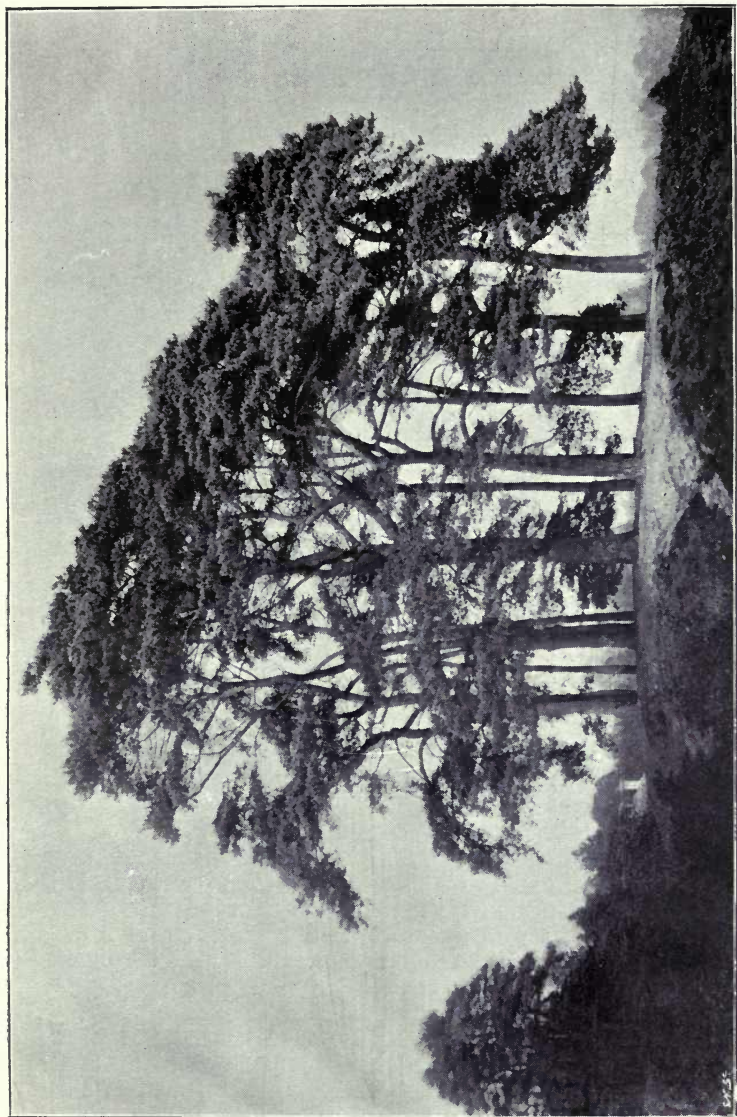


Photo by]

TREES ON REIGATE HEATH.

[Flint, Redhill.

far-famed shrine, is clearly indicated in many places, and locally distinguished as the "Pilgrims' Way." Traditional evidence favours the supposition that an ancient line of road, marked out possibly before the advent of the Romans, proceeded at different elevations along the south escarpment of the Chalk Down ridge, which extends from Farnham eastward through Surrey into Kent. Foreign pilgrims arriving at the old haven of Hanton, the modern Southampton, may reasonably be supposed to have selected a direct course, which would lead through Farnham and Guildford. The ancient highway thence doubtless passed along the flank of the North Downs in the direction of Dorking and Reigate. From Albury the line followed towards the east is in many places discernible on the side of the Surrey Downs, occasionally still used as an occupation road or bridle-way, and its course frequently indicated by a dispersed line of yew trees—"Such a row, more or less continuous, to the north of Brockham and Betchworth, marks the progress of this route in the direction of Reigate, and descends from Pebblecombe Valley in a sloping line down the hillside towards Nutley Lane, the entrance by which the pilgrims gained access to the town" (*Palgrave*). The mediæval borough annually, for some centuries, presented an animated appearance as the thousands of passing travellers, of all grades and conditions, and in every stage of fanatical excitement and degree of religious fervour, streamed unceasingly into it for the purpose of worshipping at the Chapel dedicated to St. Thomas, which then occupied the site of the present Town Hall, and was eventually dismantled in obedience to the mandate issued by Henry VIII. deposing Becket from his saintship. The continuation of the pilgrim highway eastward into Kent can be traced through Merstham and Tatsfield. When the latter point is reached the yews reappear, after a marked absence in the line of route between this place and the neighbourhood of Pebblecombe Valley.

From Roman roads and pilgrims' routes to modern railways presents a rapid flight over a long and eventful period of vicissitude and transformation. The principal lines of railway radiating from Redhill Junction, the

centre of the system in this part of the county, coincide approximately with the four cardinal points. The main lines of the London and South Eastern, and the Brighton and South Coast railways, northward, afford direct communication with Croydon and Clapham Junction; and, by an excellent service of fast trains, with the metropolitan stations of London Bridge, Liverpool Street, Cannon Street, Charing Cross, Victoria, and South Kensington. Westward, through the valley, the South Eastern line proceeds to Dorking, Guildford, Aldershot, and Reading, and supplies adequate facilities for reaching the Epsom and Ascot districts, and also Southampton by the South Western branch from Guildford. The main line, and various extensions, of the Brighton and South Coast Railway, into the Weald country, unite this junction with those of Three Bridges and Horsham, and thence give access by more or less direct routes to Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings and St. Leonards, and to Newhaven in connection with the Continental packet service. Eastward, along the base of the chalk range, the main South Eastern line forms the connection between Reigate and Redhill and the important railway centres of Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, and Ashford, and thus affords a ready means of reaching all important coast towns from Hastings and St. Leonards eastward to Margate and Ramsgate, as well as provides direct communication with the Dover Continental service.

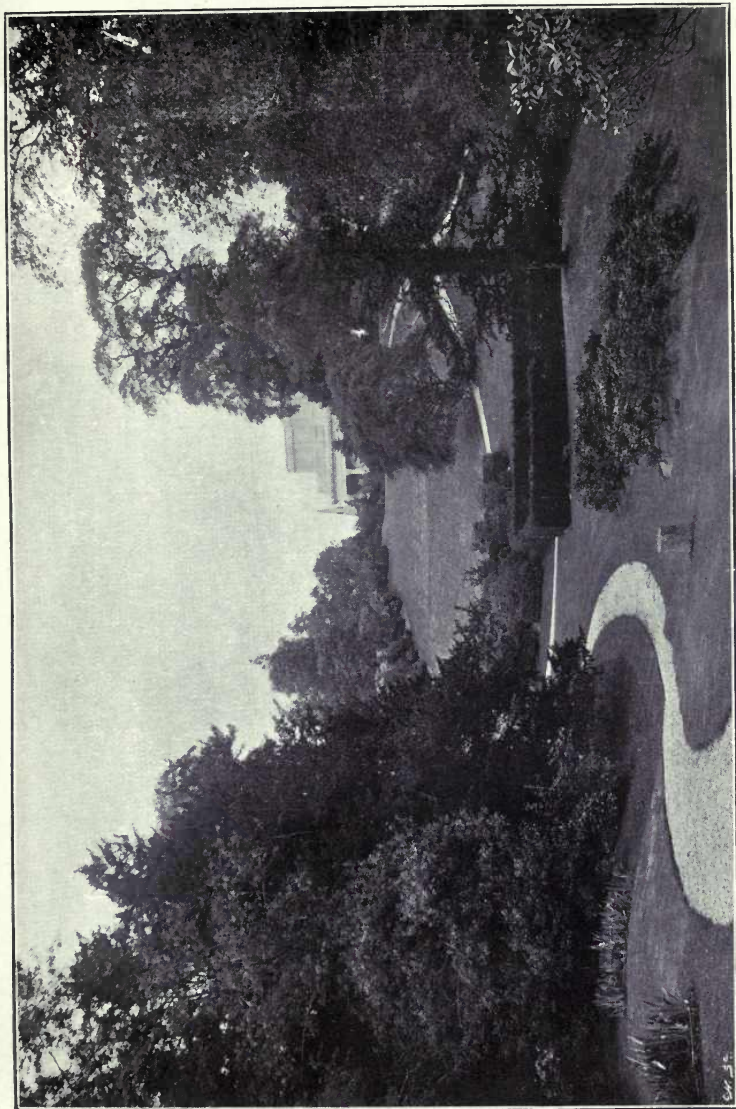
The Hundred of Reygate or Reigate, originally styled the Hundred of Cherchefelle, comprehends a vast tract of undulating and diversified country in the south-east of the county, bordering on the Weald district; and includes the parishes of Reigate, East Betchworth, Buckland, Charlewood, Horley, Newdegate, Leigh, Burstow, Chipstead, Merstham, Gatton, Nutfield, and the Liberty of Kingswood in Ewell. It is bounded on the north by that of Wallington, by those of Copthorne and Wotton on the west, by Tandridge Hundred on the east, and on the south by the Rapes of Lewes and Bramber in Sussex.

The parish and lordship of Reigate contains upwards of 6,000 acres, and formerly comprised the two chief precincts of Reigate Borough, represented by the township,

and Reigate Forinsec or Foreign, which included the districts of Stanton, Woodhatch, Colley, Howleigh and Linkfield. Its northern boundaries are Kingswood Liberty in Ewell, and Gatton Parish; Nutfield is on the eastern borders; the parishes of Horley and Leigh form the southern confines, and Betchworth and Buckland the western. The extent of the present municipal borough coincides with the area of the parish, as did that of the late parliamentary borough when adjusted by the Reform Bill of 1832. When the charter of incorporation was granted in 1863, the borough was divided into the western and eastern wards, which corresponded approximately with the Reigate and Redhill urban districts; but, in accordance with a recent Order of Council, six wards are now constituted, and the jurisdiction is vested in a mayor, six aldermen, and eighteen councillors.

Reigate is situated in the vale or valley of Holmesdale, at the foot of a range of chalk hills, which extends across Surrey from near Farnham on the west, to Godstone and Tatsfield eastward, and enters Kent near Westerham; and it occupies a central position in the Hundred which takes its name, as well as in the parliamentary division of Mid-Surrey. The town stands on a bed of fine white sand-rock, which acts as a natural filter, and the water obtained from this source is distributed over the borough through the agency of waterworks established in the south-western suburbs, in connection with a reservoir, calculated to contain 80,000 gallons, that has been constructed on the crest of the western extremity of the Park ridge. The white sand of the district has long been celebrated, and its extreme purity renders it admirably adapted for the manufacture of the finest qualities of glass, and for the preparation of the grounding of fresco paintings. It is now procured from open pits or quarries, but was formerly excavated from subterranean caves, and many of these disused caverns extend to considerable distances under the foundations of the older town dwellings, and in the direction of the Castle mound.

Redhill is of comparatively recent growth, and occupies a pleasant situation, combining sundry manifest advantages, on the northern and eastern slopes on an elevated



[Photo by Robinson & Son.

A HOLMESDALE PARK VIEW, GATTON.

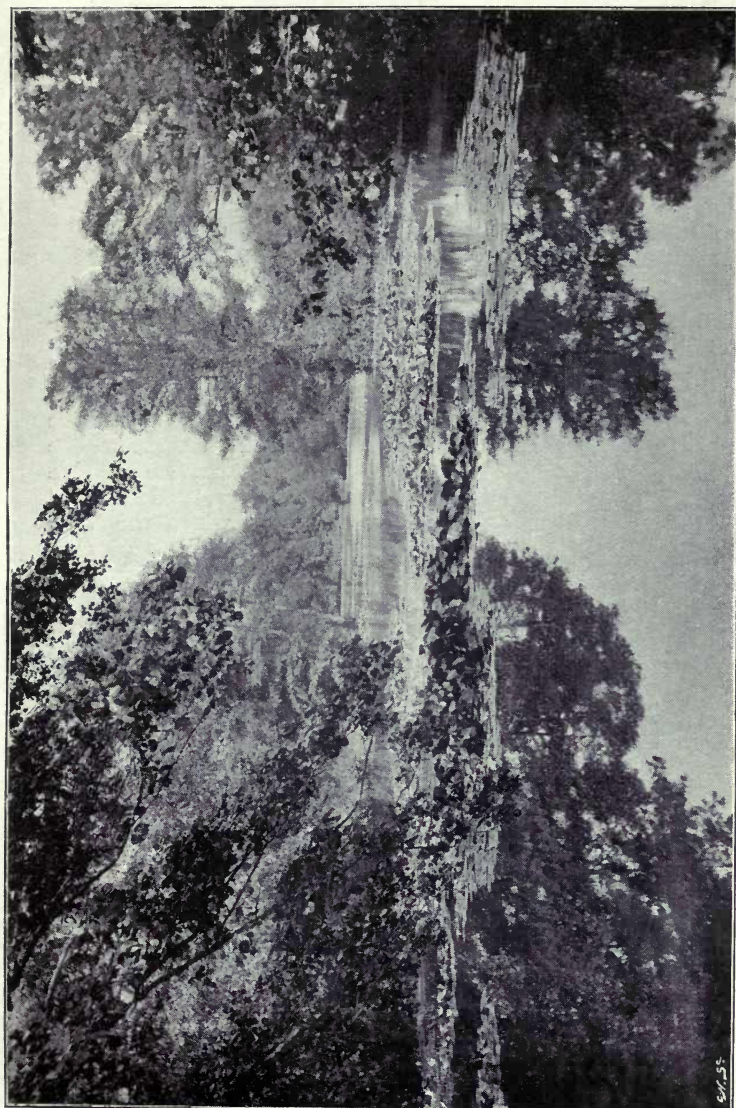
By permission of J. Colman, Esq.]

greensand ridge, and in the adjacent valley. The town has rapidly extended westward from the original nucleus in the vicinity of its important railway junction, and is now united to Reigate by a succession of detached mansions and villas, surrounded in many instances by ornamental grounds and well-wooded plantations. The census of 1891 gave 22,646 as the population of the parish and co-extensive municipal borough of Reigate, out of which Redhill claims 13,789 inhabitants.

The commons and wastes connected with the Manor of Reigate are the Wray, Reigate Heath, Redhill and Earlswood Commons, and Peteridge Wood, all of which are now reserved for public use. With a pure bracing atmosphere, a genial climate, an exceptionally dry soil, effective drainage system, and an excellent supply of water, the Reigate district possesses the primary essential characteristics of a healthy residential locality.

The scenery of this favoured district exhibits much variety, and affords, in places, striking contrasts between beauty and commonplace. In many parts the landscapes are much diversified—here with picturesque uplands, there with romantic heights; again we have woodland dells and verdant valleys; at times we see level tracts where cornfields, meadow lands, and orchard plantations are mingled; whilst in other situations are presented features which perhaps yield but few attractions to the ordinary tourist. The surface of the country is varied and undulating in a marked degree, and scattered among the chalk hills and greensand ridge are a multitude of verdant knolls, commanding charming prospects, as well as some more lofty heights, whose summits afford many fine views of considerable diversity of scene, as, for instance, Reigate Hill and Park, Redhill Common, Tilburstow Hill, Banstead Down, Betchworth Clump, and the more distant Box and Leith Hills near Dorking.

What a landscape lies below!
No clouds, no vapours intervene;
But the gay, the open scene
Does the face of Nature show
In all the hues of heaven's bow,
And swelling to embrace the light,
Spreads around beneath the sight.



[Flint, Redhill.

A HOLMESDALE LAKE SCENE, PENDELL.

Photo by]

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CHAPTER II.

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES.

THE physical aspects of a district obviously depend upon the nature of the underlying strata, and on the displacements which have occurred since their original disposition. The most prominent feature of the locality under consideration is the chain of chalk hills, called the North Downs, which extends east and west across the county, and presents an elevated plateau of variable width, intersected by numerous valleys, and divided transversely by deep ravines, through which the Wey and Mole flow towards their respective points of confluence with the Thames. A valley, mainly composed of a light clay and sandy soil, lies to the south of the Downs; and this is succeeded by a range of sand hills, which runs parallel with the chalk, and gradually increases in altitude as it proceeds westward to attain an elevation of nearly 1,000 feet at Leith Hill; and from thence an allied sandy formation is continued, in a series of wooded ridges, to the heights of Hindhead.

With a view to elucidate subsequent details of a somewhat technical nature, it may be desirable to commence with a brief analysis of general facts. The entire series of geological formations represented in the central and southern portions of the county of Surrey can be assigned to the Cretaceous system of the Secondary or Mesozoic period. In this we have a distinction made between the Upper Cretaceous group, which includes the later deposits, and the Lower Cretaceous or Neocomian group, embracing those of an earlier age. The former consists of the following series of strata: (1) White chalk with flints; (2) chalk without flints, often of a grey colour; (3) chalk marl, with which is



REIGATE AND REDHILL.

associated chloritic marl, the characteristic fossil of the former being *Rhynchonella Martini*; (4) upper green sand, the firestone of Surrey, comprising the deposits known as Blackdown and Warminster beds; and (5) gault, a dark blue marl of the south-east of England, subdivided into upper and lower formations. The first four enumerated are marine deposits, and the last named is of littoral origin. The Lower Cretaceous group is divided into, first, the Neocomean or lower greensand series, in part fluvial and partly marine origin, which includes the several strata termed (1) Sandgate beds, (2) Folkestone beds, (3) Hythe beds, with Kentish rag or calcareous stone, and (4) Atherfield clay, having *Perna Mulleti* as the predominant fossil; and, secondly, the Wealden series of freshwater formations, comprising (1) the Wealden clay of Surrey, Kent, and Sussex, with fossil *Cypris*; and (2) Hastings sands or beds, which embrace the various deposits, distinguished as Tunbridge Wells sand, Wadhurst clay, Ashdown sand, and Ashburnham beds, and have *Iguanodon Mantelli* as the prevailing characteristic fossil. The upper chalk formation attains a maximum thickness of 1,200 feet; the grey chalk reaches 170 feet; chalk marl varies from 60 to 100 feet; and upper greensand from a few feet to 100 feet; whilst gault averages about 100 feet in thickness. The beds of Weald clay vary from 400 to 1,000 feet, and the thickness of the Hastings sand deposits approaches 800 feet. It may be remarked that the successive formations enumerated are distinguished by their distinctive mineralogical characteristics, and peculiar organic remains. Subterranean movements and upheavals of the surface in remote ages have produced disruptions and displacements of the strata, which in this district afford ample facilities for practical observation and individual study of the whole series above indicated within a comparatively limited area. Proceeding in a northern direction, we should at the southern limits of the county perceive the clays of the Weald, next encounter the limestones and varied formations designated the Neocomean, then cross the ridges of lower greensand south of Reigate; afterwards enter the valley formed by the Sandgate and Folkestone



Photo by]

CHALK DOWNS, FROM REDHILL COMMON.

[Pint, Redhill.

Ch. 55

beds; and, passing over well-defined outcrops of gault and upper greensand, ascend the escarpment of the North Downs, traverse the chalk plateau, and finally arrive at a later geological period in the London clay district as we approach the metropolis.

Now entering into more special details of local interest we propose to commence our tour of inspection in the western extremity of the county at Tilburstow Hill, near Godstone; and, in proceeding thither, would intimate that the Surrey chalk formation consists of two distinct varieties—one with flints, and the other without. The former includes: (*a*) white chalk, with layers of flints at intervals of from two to five feet, and averaging 200 feet in thickness, and (*b*) chalk with hard nodules and scattered flints, attaining about 25 feet; and the latter embraces (*c*) white chalk irregularly jointed, of from 100 to 150 feet, (*d*) rather grey chalk, hard, slightly clayey, and making a good water-lime, and (*e*) chalk marl, soft, and of no great thickness. Ascending the escarpment of the hill, as we approach our destination, we may pause to add that the displacement of the chalk of the Weald Valley is supposed to have been caused by the gradual elevation of the “forest-ridge” of Sussex, which culminates at Crowborough Beacon, now a prominent feature in the distant landscape view. During the progress of the upheaval the superincumbent chalk beds were disrupted and thrown on either side; and subsequent changes, extending over an estimated period of 300,000,000 years, entirely denuded the valley of chalk.

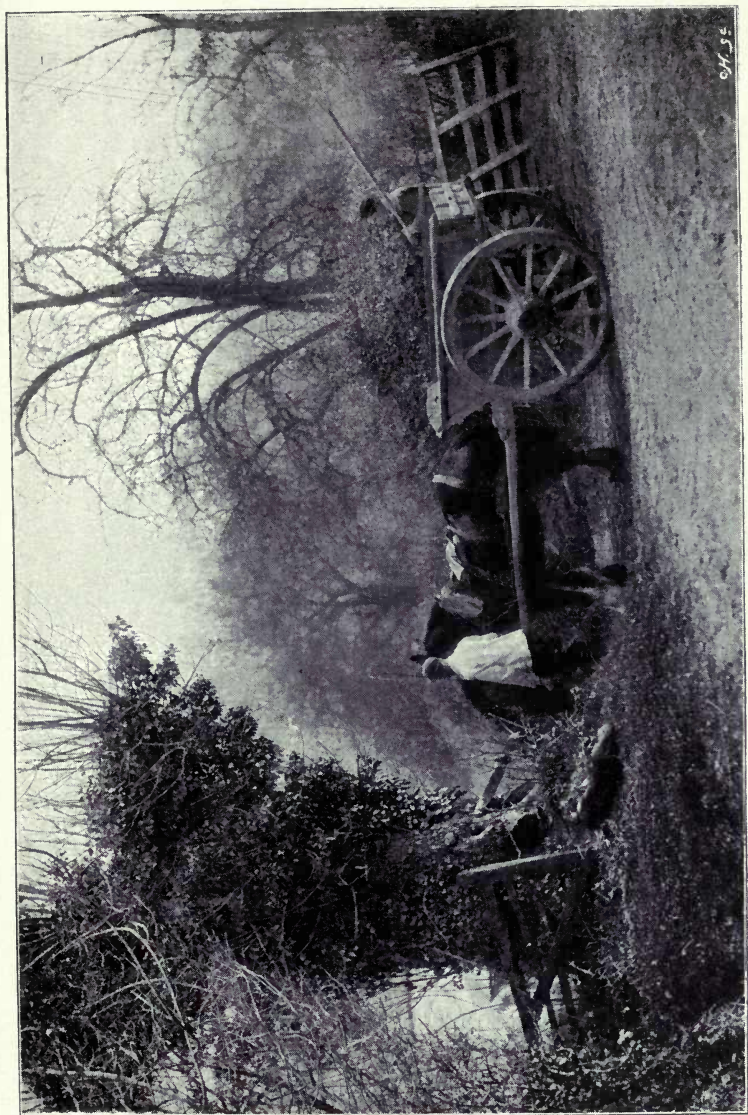
Tilburstow Hill is composed of Sandgate beds of lower greensand, and is a most interesting locality for geological exploration. The strata on the north side rise uniformly at a gradual incline, but on the south, towards the Weald, they terminate abruptly, presenting a steep escarpment, and a few hundred yards from the summit a fault or dislocation is disclosed. The beds exposed to view consist of sand and sandstone, having a total thickness of 60 or 70 feet, varying in colour from pale yellow to red, and interspersed with chert and ironstone.

To the west of Tilburstow Hill another interesting section of the Sandgate beds is displayed at Nutfield,

where *fuller's earth* is found associated with the greensand. The neighbourhood of Nutfield village may be regarded as the typical area for this deposit, and has long been celebrated for the abundant supply conveyed to various manufacturing centres. The beds of fuller's earth extend from the village to Redstone Hill, near Redhill Junction. One variety of it has a dark blue or slate colour, and another a yellowish-brown, and it encloses masses of crystallised sulphate of barytes, which are transparent, and of a topaz colour.

The narrow outcrop of firestone, which represents the upper greensand formation, and ranges along the foot of the southern escarpment of the downs, is well developed at Merstham, about two miles north from Nutfield. It has been quarried in this locality for several centuries, and extensively utilised for building purposes. The firestone is of a greyish-green colour, and constitutes the lowermost beds of a grey calcareous marl, which forms the basis of the chalk accumulation. We may here mention that gault intervenes between the upper and lower greensands; and, disposed in a narrow characteristic valley beneath the chalk ridge, occupies a wide area.

Proceeding towards Reigate, we again observe the Sandgate beds at Redhill, the predominant feature here being the red tints of the greensand strata in various places. At Reigate, the main London road, which passes through the town and under the tunnel, intersects the entire succession of strata, from the Wealden clay to the chalk, between Cockshut Hill on the southern confines of the borough and the downs to the north. The lowermost beds of the greensand formation constitute Cockshut Hill, the middle beds occupy the valley of the town, and the upper members of the series are exposed near the tunnel, whilst the excavated cave under the adjacent mound of Reigate castle discloses the white and grey sand-rock of these deposits. As we proceed towards the Downs gault is observed overlying the sand, and in the firestone quarries close by we see the upper greensand represented; the chalk marl succeeds, and finally, the lower and the upper or flinty chalk are displayed at the escarpment of the North Downs.



A WEALDEN LANE.

Having surmounted the crest of the ridge, we will allow Dr. Mantell, to whom we are already considerably indebted, to describe the scene unfolded to the privileged spectator:—"The view from the summit of the chalk hills to the north of Reigate, is as interesting to the geologist as to the lover of the picturesque; for it presents a magnificent landscape, displaying the physical structure of the Weald, and its varied and beautiful scenery. At the foot of the downs lies the valley in which Reigate is situated; and immediately beyond the town appears the elevated ridge of Shanklin sand, which stretches towards Leith Hill on the west, and to Tilburstow Hill on the east. The forest ridge of the Wealden occupies the middle region, extending westward towards Horsham, and eastward towards Crowborough Hill—its greatest altitude—and from thence to Hastings, having on each flank the Wealds of Kent and Sussex; while in the remote distance, the rounded and undulating summits of the South Downs appear stretched along the verge of the horizon."

From Reigate westward the valley expands, and the opportunities afforded for observing the outcrops of the varied formations within a reasonable compass become proportionately less favourable. The Folkestone beds, bordering the gault on the south, extend to the Dorking district, and constitute the greater part of Farley Heath and Blackheath before reaching the vicinity of Guildford; and they also occupy the wide heathy tract stretching from Godalming in a westerly direction to Farnham. Beyond Leith Hill the Sandgate deposits are replaced by the Hythe beds, which prevail to a larger extent than any other member of the greensand group, from thence to the Hindhead Hills at the south-western extremity of the county. A narrow belt of Atherfield clay borders the Hythe strata on the south throughout their extent, and a considerable deposit of it also occurs between Guildford and Godalming.

When considered in accordance with the historical sequence of events, we find that during the Wealden epoch, the most ancient of the geological periods under review, the south-western portion of England constituted

the bed of a vast delta or estuary formed by a mighty river, which flowed through a widely extended valley in a country enjoying a tropical temperature, abounding with luxuriant vegetation, and inhabited by crocodiles of prodigious size, gigantic turtles, and strange birds, as well as by reptiles of appalling magnitude, of which the colossal iguanodon and megalosaurus, lizard-like creatures attaining a length of upwards of 100 feet, are the chief representatives. The immense depth of accumulations formed by the bones of various species of reptiles, the trunks and branches of trees, and by numerous marsh plants, slowly deposited in innumerable successive layers, incontrovertibly prove to us that the Wealden age in geological annals was of an indefinitely long duration.

Dr. Mantell, in reference to this period, remarks:—
“From a careful survey of the strata and organic remains of the Wealden, we have acquired data from which we obtain secure conclusions as to the nature of the country from whence those spoils were derived, of the animals by which it was inhabited, and of the vegetables that clothed its surface. That country must have been diversified by hill and valley, and irrigated by streams and torrents, the tributaries of its mighty river. Amborescent ferns, palms, and yuccas constituted its groves and forests; delicate ferns and grasses the vegetable clothing of its soil; and in its marshes *equiseta*, and plants of a like nature, prevailed. It was peopled by enormous reptiles, among which the colossal iguanodon and the megalosaurus were the chief; crocodiles and turtles, flying reptiles and birds, frequented its fens and rivers, and deposited their eggs on its banks and shoals; and its waters teemed with lizards, fishes, and mollusca. But there is no evidence that man ever set his foot upon that wondrous soil, or that any of the animals that are his contemporaries found there an habitation.”

A geological era succeeded when the delta formed by fluvial agency gradually subsided to a considerable depth in the ocean, and when the several hundred feet of strata, composed of extinct species of marine creatures and of microscopic shells and corals, which constitute

existing chalk beds, were accumulated upon the submerged land. In describing the chalk formation, Kingsley says:—"We know now what chalk is, and how it was made. We know that it was deposited, as white lime mud, at a vast sea depth; seemingly undisturbed by winds, or currents. We know that not only the flint, but the chalk itself, is made up of shells: the shells of little microscopic animalcules, smaller than a needle's

*Photo 63]*LAKE IN THE CHALK DISTRICT, GATTON. [*Robinson & Son.*

point, in millions of millions, some whole, some broken, some in powder, which lived, and died, and decayed for ages in the great chalk sea."

For an immeasurable period of time these dust-like clouds of minute shells sank down from the surface waters of the ocean as quietly and slowly as snow-flakes fall, and rested upon the foundation formed by the strata built up from the sediment of fresh-water lakes, and of rivers that ran their course before the great ocean submerged them beneath its chalky waves.

"The white chalk," says Dr. Mantell, "is composed of lime and carbonic acid, and a large proportion of the purest appears to be in great part, if not wholly, made up of the detritus of corals and shells. The nodules and veins of flint in the chalk show that water, holding siliceous matter in solution, must have been very abundant during the Cretaceous period. The perfect fluidity of the flint before its consolidation is proved by the sharp impressions of shells, echini, and other marine exuviae, and the complete impregnation of the sponges, alcyonia, and other zoophytes, with siliceous matter; so that polished sections of the flints display the most delicate structure of the enclosed organic bodies. The chalk is distinctly stratified, and the flints are distributed in horizontal layers at irregular distances from each other—a proof of the tranquil and unremitting character of the deposition."

We now arrive at the third age in geological history, when subterranean movements and displacements occurred which gradually forced up the Wealden strata and the superimposed chalk formation; and, by elevating large masses of these ocean and river beds above the level of the sea, converted them into dry land.

Upon the emergence of the chalk above the water surface, the last formed, and consequently the least coherent beds, would be first exposed to the destructive effects of the waves; and if the elevations were gradual, successive strata would be subjected to this operation until the mass of chalk attained a level out of the reach of these denuding causes. The drainage of the upraised masses of calcareous rock would then commence, and give rise to numerous streams and rills, by which the surface would be grooved and furrowed; and funnels or sandpipes would be formed by the gyratory action of eddies induced by opposing currents: effects in every respect analogous to those observable on the muddy dunes of a delta on the recession of the tide. And thus the beds of loose, unrolled, and only slightly abraded flints, the rounded and smooth contour of the gently-swelling hills and combes, and the undulating valleys of the chalk districts are the natural results of the operations described. The subsequent consolidation of the exposed

chalk would by degrees be effected by the percolation of water, a process by which calcareous spar is infiltrated into porous strata, and which would result in the conversion of many of the beds into compact limestone. The inner band of ferruginous sandhills remained in consequence of the support yielded by the subordinate beds of chert and hard sandstone; and the valleys that intervene between the sandhills and the chalk downs were excavated by the removal of the softer strata of marl and gault, which are interposed between the white chalk and the lower greensands.

The axis of upheaval appears to have passed in a line from east to west, and to have extended from Winchester, by Petersfield and Haslemere, to Horsham, and thence traversing the Wealds of Sussex and Kent, and coinciding with the central forest ridge, proceeded to Winchelsea and the opposite coast of France near Boulogne. Were it not for the later development of this displacement, and the subsequent changes resulting therefrom, the entire area at present occupied by the Weald would have been a level expanse of chalk, and the Wealden strata, which are the lowermost or inferior beds, would have been concealed from view and unknown.

The period comprised in the vicissitudes and transformations of this latter era in the world's history is supposed to have been trifling when compared with the duration of preceding geological epochs referred to, and yet a vast number of centuries must have elapsed during the progress of the removal of the superincumbent chalk beds, or what is technically termed the denudation of the Weald. Darwin, in his famous work, "*On the Origin of Species*," refers thus to this district:—"It is an admirable lesson to stand on the North Downs and to look at the distant South Downs; for, remembering that at no great distance to the west the northern and southern escarpments meet and close, one can safely picture to oneself the great dome of rocks which must have covered up the Weald, within so limited a period as since the latter part of the chalk formation. The distance from the Northern to the

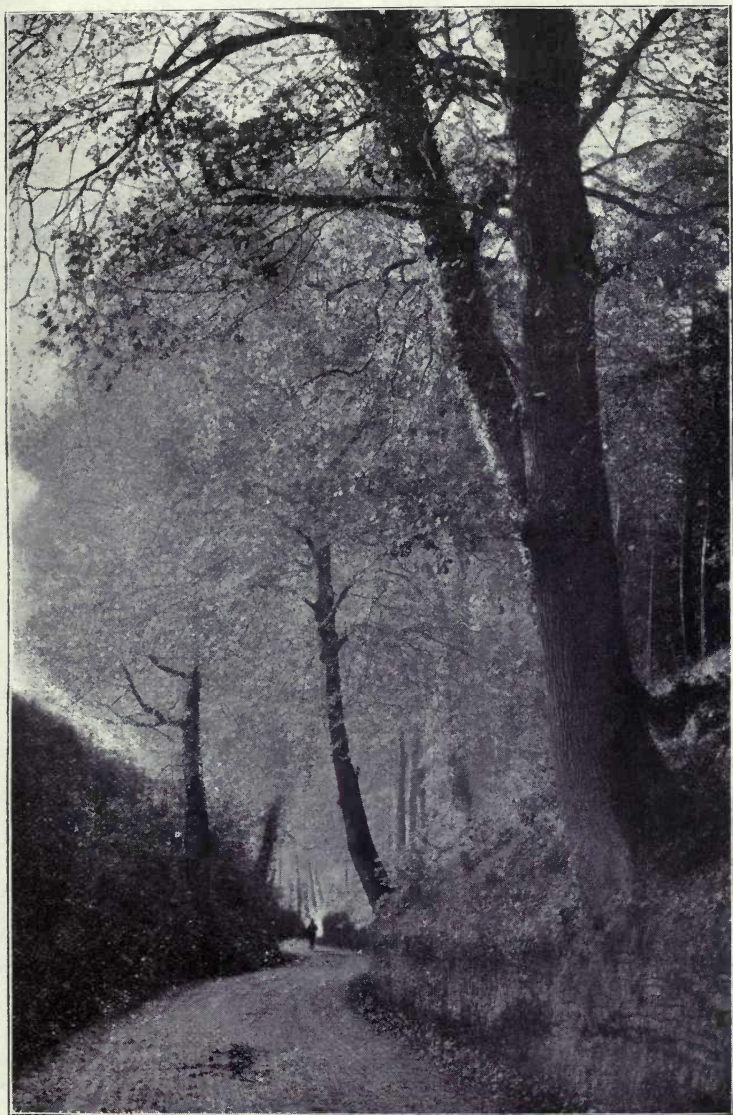


Photo by]

A PICTURESQUE SURREY HIGHWAY.

[G. West, Godalming.

Southern Downs is about twenty-two miles, and the thickness of the several formations is on an average about 1,100 feet"; and, "under ordinary circumstances, for cliffs 500 feet in height, denudation of one inch per century for the whole length would be an ample allowance, and at this rate the denudation of the Weald must have required 306,662,400 years; or, say *three hundred million of years.*"

There rolls the deep where grew the tree,
 O earth, what changes thou hast seen!
 There where the long street roars, hath been,
 The stillness of the central sea.
 The hills are shadows, and they flow
 From form to form, and nothing stands;
 They melt like mist, the solid lands,
 Like clouds they shape themselves and go.—*Tennyson.*



Photo by]

ON THE WEALD EORDERS: THE MEDWAY AT AYLESFORD.

[H. E. Sawyer.

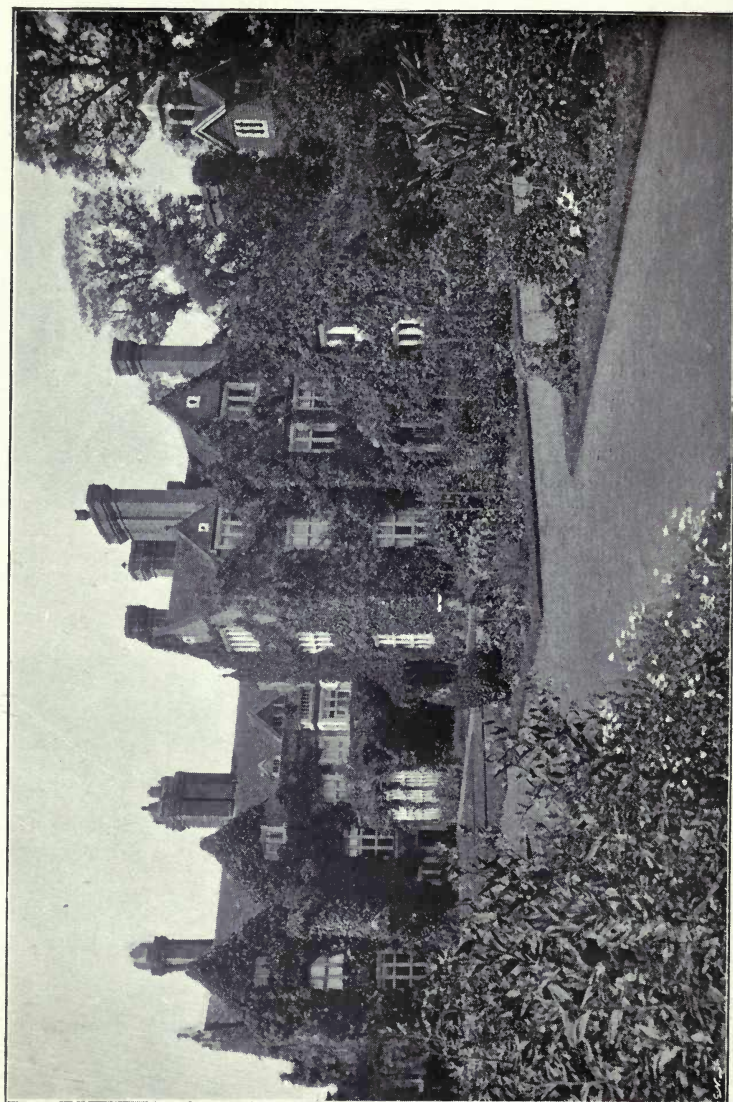
CHAPTER III.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

REIGATE, at the time of the general survey recorded in Domesday Book, was called Cherchefelle, that is, Churchfield; and it appears to have retained that name until the commencement of the reign of King John, about which time Hamelin, Earl of Warren and Surrey, gave the advowson of the church so styled to the Priory of St. Mary Overy, in Southwark. In the course of the following century, however, we find it referred to as Reygate in the taxation of benefices made by order of Edward I., in 1292; and somewhat earlier, in 1279, we meet with John de Reygate, who undoubtedly derived his name from this place, as one of the itinerant judges of the time.

Reygate, the etymological rendering employed until comparatively recent years, is doubtless deduced from Rige Gate, or Ridge Road, the Saxon appellation for the causeway leading from the present town to the ridge of the hill above it. The town itself was, we may suppose, simply designated Cherchefelle or Cherchefeld by our Saxon ancestors, and probably, when written in its full and proper form, Cherchefeld on Rige Gate; until gradually, by a mode of abbreviation incident to all forms of language in popular usage, the first part became disused, and at length forgotten, while the latter, though merely descriptive of its situation, was retained as the distinctive name of the place itself. The same process of transition is at present exemplified in the case of Kingston-upon-Hull, and similar instances of recent date.

As to the origin of the varied forms of Cherchefeld, Cherchefelle, and Crechesfeld, designating the *Field-of-the-Church*, Mr. Salmon suggests, in his "Antiquities of



By permission of W. A. Bell, Esq.]

A FINE OLD MANOR HOUSE PENDELL COURT.

[Photo by Flint.]

Surrey," that at an early period, soon after the conversion of the South Saxons to Christianity, some important church was erected in this vale; which circumstance induced settlement in the vicinity for convenience of worship, and hence the name of Church-Field was in due course applied to the inhabited locality. Manning, whose "*History of Surrey*" remains the standard work for reference, and to whom we are chiefly indebted for the facts mentioned, remarks "that the church or churches so erected were possibly destroyed by the Danes, who overran this county in 851," and evidently no new edifice occupied the site until a much later period, as we find no mention by the Commissioners of the General Survey of the existence of an endowment in this connection. A church beyond all doubt existed here at the time of King John, when Earl Hamelin gave, as already alluded to, the advowson of Cherchefelle, in conjunction with those of Betchworth and Leigh, to the Priory of St. Mary Overy, in Southwark.

In the Domesday Book it is described as one of the manors pertaining to the Crown. A modern rendering of the entry would read as follows:—"The King holds in demesne Cherchefelle, which had been held by Eddid, the Queen. It was then assessed at $37\frac{1}{2}$ hides; now for the King's work at 34 hides. The arable land is. . . . There are 3 carucates in demesne, and 67 villains and 11 bordars, with 26 caracutes. There are 2 mills at 12s. wanting 2d.; and 12 acres of meadow. The wood yields 140 swine for pannage, and 43 for herbage. It is now valued at 40*l.*, which is the amount it yields."

From this precise and interesting record we gather that the manor formed a portion of the royal settlement made by the Confessor in favour of his Queen, Edith, and was then rated as 3,750 acres. When the Conqueror held possession at the time of the survey, it was returned as containing 3,400 acres liable to State charges and feudal obligations. We further learn that the King actually occupied 300 acres of the demesne proper, and that his tenants, consisting of 67 villains and 11 bordars, held the remaining 2,600 acres included therein. As the lord's portion was a tenth of the produce, we may assume

that the fat and lean herds of swine numbered respectively 1,400 and 430. The meadow is said to contain 12 acres, but the quantity of arable is not specified. The rental of the two mills represented about 35*l.* 10*s.* of our present currency ; and, lastly, we observe that the reputed value and actual annual return of the demesne would be equivalent to about 2,000*l.* in our day.

The manor of Reigate at this time was evidently of considerable extent, and probably included the present parishes of Leigh, Newdegate, Charlwood, Horley, and Burstow, as neither of them are specified independently in the return made by the Commissioners, nor are they introduced as parochially or territorially connected with other places described.

Some authorities suppose that William, the first Earl of Warren and Surrey, who was son-in-law of the Conqueror, held the manor from the date of the Norman Conquest, as a grant from the Crown, but the distinct record of Domesday proves it to have been in royal possession twenty years later. The earliest authentic evidence available has reference to the gift of the advowson of this benefice by Earl Hamelin at the beginning of King John's reign, which circumstance clearly indicates that he was then the possessor of the manor. We may probably infer with some degree of certainty that Reigate was granted by William Rufus to Earl William, and that Hamelin, as his son and heir, acquired the estate by right of inheritance.

A second Earl William, son of Hamelin, is mentioned by Dugdale as having held the manorial demesnes, which descended to his son John, who died in 1347. This Earl of Warren and Surrey left no lawful issue, in consequence of which the family inheritance devolved on Richard, the son of his sister Alice and Edmund Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel. Thomas, Earl of Arundel, died without children in 1415, when his estates were shared by his three sisters, and Elizabeth, the eldest, wife of Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, became possessed of the manor of Reigate.

Before proceeding further, it may be mentioned incidentally that, in 1279, Edward I. instituted a Court of

Assize for the purpose of inquiring into the various titles of persons who occupied lands originally pertaining to the Crown; apparently with the object of obtaining forfeiture of those estates where insufficient evidence of ownership was forthcoming, or of imposing considerable fines for the renewal of their charter deeds. John de Reygate is referred to as one of the justices so commissioned, before whom, in due course, John de Warren, seventh Earl of Surrey, was cited to appear, and establish the validity of his claim to the several extensive demesnes held. "Therefore," we are told, "being called afore the Justices aboute this matter, he appeared, and being asked by what right he held his landes? He sodenly drawing forth an olde rustie sword, 'By this instrument (sayde he) doe I holde my landes. Our auncestors comming into this Realme with William the Conqueror, conquered theyr landes with the sworde, and wyth the same will I defende me from all those that shall be aboute to take them from me: he did not make a conqueste of this Realme alone, our progenitors were with him as participators and helpers.'" We have no reason to doubt an immediate and successful result from this bold appeal.

On the failure of male issue in the Mowbray family, the Reigate estates were again divided among the descendants of the four daughters of Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk. Margaret, one of the co-heiresses, married Sir Richard Howard, ancestor of the ducal family of Howard. Her sister, Isabella, became wife of James, Lord Berkeley; and their son William, as Marquis of Berkeley, re-leased his fourth part of the manor of Reigate to his cousin, Thomas, Earl of Surrey. The son and heir of the latter nobleman was Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, who was attainted just before the death of Henry VIII., when all his estates were forfeited to the Crown.

The moiety of Reigate, with the moiety of Howleigh in its parish, and some other estates held by the Crown, were granted by Edward VI. to William, Lord Howard of Effingham. Charles, his famous son, who commanded the English fleet against the Armada, and subsequently became Earl of Nottingham, left a daughter as sole heiress, who inherited the Priory demesne; but the

manorial estate was settled by Lord Nottingham, as a jointure, on his second wife. This lady subsequently married Richard Monson, who was created Baron Monson and Viscount Castlemaine in Ireland, and who thus became tenant of one moiety of the manor in right of his wife. Lord Monson purchased the other moiety, comprising also two of the original shares, from the trustees of Richard Sackville, Earl of Dorset, in 1628.



By permission of]

AN HISTORIC MANSION, GATTON HALL.

[J. Colman, Esq.

The former nobleman was one of the judges before whom Charles I. was arraigned, and when the Restoration took place he was degraded and condemned to perpetual imprisonment, and his estates were confiscated. Hence the fee-simple of one moiety of the manor of Reigate, and Lord Monson's life interest in the other, escheated to the Crown.

The manor was granted to the Duke of York, afterwards James II., about 1662; and he held it entire until 1672, when John Goodwin is found associated with him

as joint lord. That gentleman had doubtless purchased the reversion of the moiety after the death of Lord Monson, which had now taken place. His estate passed to Deane Goodwin, who represented Reigate in Parliament from 1678 to 1681; and after James ascended the throne he acquired the moiety of the manors of Reigate and Howleigh from the Goodwin family for the sum of £4,466.

In consequence of the abdication of James II., the entire manor came into the possession of his successor, William III., who in 1697 granted it to Mr. (afterwards Sir) Joseph Jekyll, his heirs and assigns, in fee and common socage, at a rent of 6s. 8d. a year. Some accounts state that the grant of the manor of Reigate was made to Lord Somers at this date, when he became Lord Chancellor of England, and was elevated to the peerage as Baron Somers of Evesham, but his name does not appear upon the Patent Rolls in this connection. The grant was actually made to Mr. Jekyll, who married his sister, but probably as trustee for Lord Somers, since we find that courts were held in that nobleman's name, and after his decease in those of his sisters.

Of Lord Somers, it has been said by Walpole that he was "One of those divine men, who, like a chapel in a palace, remain unprofaned, while all the rest is tyranny, corruption, and folly. All the traditional accounts of him, the historians of the last age, and its best authors, represent him as the most uncorrupt lawyer and the honestest statesman; as a master-orator, a genius of the finest taste, and a patriot of the noblest and most extensive views; as a man who dispensed blessings by his life, and planned them for posterity."

The manor descended, on the death of Lady Jekyll, in 1785, to her nephew, John Cocks, Esq., and the title of Baron Somers of Evesham was revived in the person of Charles Cocks, his nephew, in 1784. He was succeeded in 1806 by his son, John Somers Cocks, who was advanced to the dignity of Viscount Eastnor and Earl Somers in 1821. Lady Henry Somerset, the daughter and heiress of his grandson, the third earl, is the present owner of the demesne and the lady of the manor.

A Court Leet and a Court Baron were regularly held in connection with the manor of Reigate. When it formed the principal seat of the Earls of Warren and Surrey, the manors of Flanchford in Stanton district, Combe, Woodhatch, Howleigh, Redstone, Linkfield, Colley, Dorking, and the Priory, appertained to and were held under it. In process of time the number of these were diminished, and in the survey of Reigate

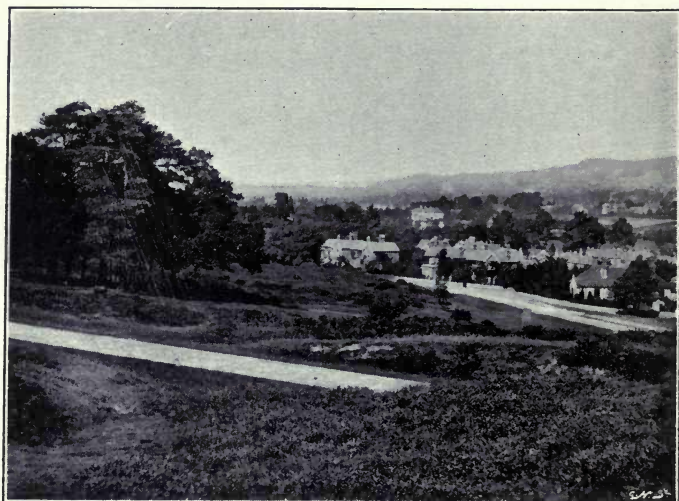


Photo by]

REDHILL, FROM THE COMMON.

[Flint, Redhill.

made in 1622 only three of the sub-manors enumerated are alluded to, and the boundaries of the manor-in-chief or lordship are described in the following terms:—"The Bounds and Limits of the Maner of Reigate extend from Buckland to Kingswood, and so along by Gatton Grounds on the North part; and by Gatton, Nutfield, and Horley on the East and South parts; and again by Buckland, Leigh, and Betchworth grounds on the West part. There are divers pettie Maners lying within this Maner . . . all which are holden over of this Maner of Reigate."

The characteristic quaintness of Camden's description in some measure compensates for deficiency of precise details:—"Rhiegate, carrying a greater shew for largenesse than faire buildings, hath on the South side a Parke thicke sette with faire groves, wherein the right Noble Charles Earle of Nottingham, Baron of Effingham and Lord Admirall of England hath a House, where the Earles of Warren and Suthrey hath founded a prety Monasterie. On the East side standeth a Castle mounted aloft, now forlorne, and for age ready to fall."

The town of Reigate gave the title of baron to the Earls of Peterborough. It was formerly a parliamentary borough, and was constituted a municipal one in 1863. The privilege to hold weekly markets was conceded to it by a charter granted in 1313 by Edward II. at the suit of John, Earl of Warren. When James, Duke of York, held the manor, a further charter, instituting monthly cattle markets, was conferred by Charles II. in 1673. The latter were discontinued many years ago, and a recent attempt to revive them did not prove successful. The borough returned its first representatives to the parliament assembled in the twenty-third year of the reign of Edward I., and had two members until the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, when it was restricted to one. It was strictly a nomination borough under the control of Earls Hardwicke and Somers, who possessed nearly all the burgage freeholds out of a total of scarcely two hundred; and the elections were determined by a few parchment voters. Under the Reform Act, the right of election was extended to the entire parish, with a length of nearly four miles and a breadth of upwards of two, and yet in 1844, when Brayley wrote his "*History of Surrey*," the registered electors were only 174 in number, and the political influence exercised by Earl Somers remained paramount. The last member for this by no means model constituency was Mr. Granville W. G. Leveson-Gower, who was elected in 1865. He was unseated on petition in the following year, when the writ was suspended; and by the Reform Bill passed in 1868 the borough was disfranchised.

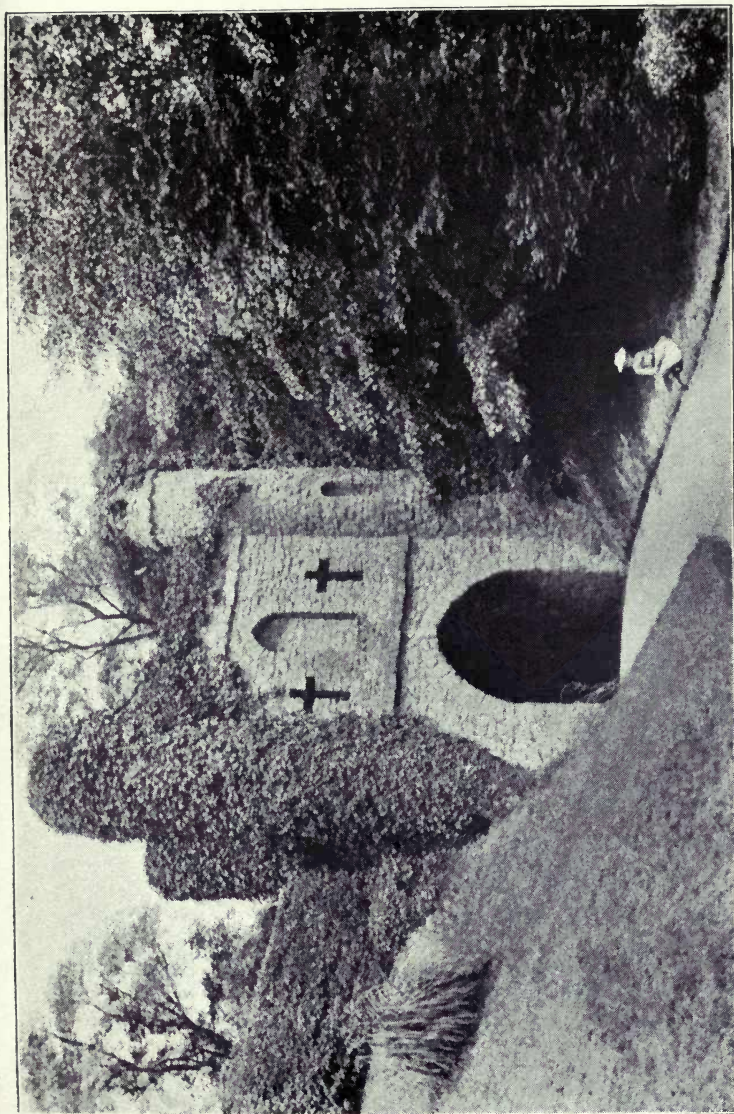
CHAPTER IV.

REIGATE CASTLE.

THE Castle of Reigate was situated within the precincts of the borough, and on the north side of the principal street of the town. Little is known concerning the ancient history of this fortress, and less with regard to the occasion and purposes of the original foundation. The most reliable sources of information at present available would induce us to ascribe its origin to some of the earlier Earls of Warren and Surrey, who, on acquiring estates in the county, made Reigate their principal residence.

Some writers, however, assert that whatever they erected was built on the site of a much more ancient fortress of Saxon construction ; while others, having regard to the pointed character of existing subterranean vaults, refuse to assign for it an earlier date than the latter part of the twelfth, or the commencement of the thirteenth century. The ground plan would indeed suggest the idea of its having been the original site of a Roman fort ; and, considering the advantages and importance of the situation, it is not improbable that in later times it formed one of a chain of fortified posts commanding the vicinal or cross road, which may still be traced from Ightham in Kent to Farnham in Surrey, and known as the "Pilgrims' Way."

Whatever may have been its origin and primitive use, it is certain that under the Earls of Warren Reigate Castle was of considerable note, and constituted one at least of the chief seats of their barony in England. William, Earl of Warren and Surrey, by whom it was held in the time of King John, is the first of his family mentioned by Dugdale as its owner. Dugdale, however,



[Flint, Redhill.

ARCH IN CASTLE GROUNDS.

Photo by]

acknowledges his title to have been derived from his earliest ancestors. This earl appears to have been one of the lords who were at first disposed to support King John in his contest with the barons, who afterwards reluctantly joined the confederacy against him, but used their influence in his favour at the council of Runnymede in 1215, and who finally prevailed upon the King to sign the Great Charter. This wavering policy is supposed to have occasioned him the temporary loss of the castle, which in the meantime is said to have fallen into the possession of Louis, Dauphin of France, soon after he landed in England in the following year.

The castle seems to have been subsequently allowed to lapse into a state of ruin, though at what period has not been accurately ascertained. In the survey taken in the reign of James I., it is presented as follows:—"Sir Roger James holdeth, from year to year, at will of the lords, the site of the Castle of Reygate, with the Warren and Lodge there, called the Castle Warren, containing 17 acres, 0 rood, 16 perches, worth, together with the profit of the Connyes there, X l." And, again, "That the Lords of this house have a decayed Castle, with a very small house and a Connie Warren belonging thereto, now in the occupation of Sir Roger James."

The dilapidated condition here indicated was not, presumably, of such an extreme nature as to render it worthless for purposes of defence, as we find that the House of Commons, in 1648, considered it expedient to issue instructions to its Derby-house Committee, enjoining that assembly "to take care of it, and to put it into such a condition that no use might be made of it to the endangering of the peace of the kingdom." We have no means of determining the manner in which this order was executed, or to what extent it was carried out, but the castle is supposed to have been demolished at that time, although some remnant of the outer walls existed within a comparatively recent period. Before concluding this sketch of fragmentary history, it may be remarked that in a document of the time of Henry VIII. mention is made of the Constable of the Castle of Reigate, and that French coins are said to have been discovered in the moat.

The site of the castle comprises an oval elevation of about two acres in extent, and upwards of fifty feet above the general level of the town, completely surrounded by a dry fosse of considerable breadth and depth. At some distance from this, on the north side, the remains of a moat, now converted into an ornamental sheet of water, may be observed extending into adjoining residential property. A reference to the ground plan contained in Manning and Bray's "*History of Surrey*" shows that a considerable proportion of the area formerly included has been enclosed for private occupation. That portion adjacent to the town, and embracing the actual site of the central stronghold, now reserved for public recreation and carefully laid out as a garden, was granted on a long lease at a nominal rent to the corporation of Reigate, about thirty years ago, by the late Earl Somers.

Entrance to the castle grounds may be had from the south by a passage from High Street, or on the opposite side by a gate in the old London Road; and a footpath across a meadow eastward affords a direct means of approach from the Reigate Road. Access to the elevated mound or platform, constituting the foundation of the original keep and its precincts, is obtained by ascending a path leading up the south-eastern side of the embankment of the fosse, and proceeding under an eastern arched gateway of somewhat antique appearance, erected in 1777 at the point where in all probability the ancient drawbridge spanned the fosse. It is also approached on the north side by a gravel walk up a gentle incline. Here we see a beautiful lawn of fine turf, enclosed by a hedge, and surrounded by ornamental flower beds. In the grounds beneath, some choice specimens of conifers may be observed under the shadow of several ancient elms of gigantic proportions.

We are informed that a temporary structure, corresponding in style with the original design of the fortress, formerly stood on the lawn, but was removed several years ago. In the centre of the eminence, and presumably in the position occupied by the old keep of feudal days, a pyramid of stones, of modern construction and overgrown with ivy, indicates the former entrance

to the somewhat remarkable and peculiarly interesting subterranean caverns. The descent here of about eighteen feet was by a flight of steps, forming the basis of a tunnelled way, protected by an encasement of cemented brick and stone work; and from the point thus reached an abruptly inclined passage, upwards of 200 feet in length, terminated in a chamber, supposed by Manning to have been used in primitive times as a dungeon. This entrance, believed to have been the original one, is no longer utilised; and access to the caves is now to be had at the opposite extremity of the passage, where, in the western curve of the dry fosse, a gate, attached to a rustic porch, admits to a few steps that lead under an archway directly into the chamber already indicated.

Having been accommodated with lights, and provided with a guide in the person of the custodian and gardener, we duly commence an exploration of the castle vaults. Immediately after exchanging the bright sunshine and the soft green terraces of the outer regions for the pervading gloom of the subterranean recesses now entered, and before fully realising the contrast presented, we are conducted into a spacious gallery or crypt on the left of the passage described, extending in a curved projection to a length of nearly 150 feet, and having a somewhat irregular termination, with a semicircular seat, constructed of stone combined with bricks, and carefully cemented. This chamber, designated the "Barons' Cave," has a pointed roof twelve feet in height, which springs from a well-defined cornice, and appears to have been finished with more care than other parts of the excavation. Local tradition asserts that occasional secret consultations of the barons opposed to King John were held here previous to the famous meeting at Runnymede; but it is perhaps unnecessary to point out that well-authenticated historical records of that period afford abundant evidence of the extreme improbability of any such conferences having occurred at this castle, which, moreover, belonged to a nobleman disposed to favour the king's pretensions. In ordinary times it most likely served as a repository for treasure and military stores.

Retracing our steps to the passage, and proceeding in the direction of the former entrance alluded to, we notice some rude but clever carvings in the sandstone as we approach another apartment, of about thirty feet in length, known as the "Guard-room," and which possibly may have been in early times occupied by the guard of this secluded retreat ; although the fact of not being indicated in the old maps has occasioned some doubt as to its



Photo by]

A LANE AND PATH AT REDHILL. [Robinson & Son, Redhill.

antiquity. A feature of the vaultings throughout the caverns is the pointed nature of the arch, and all have been hewn out of the solid rock, which, however, is of a soft nature and a peculiarly fine composition. It will be observed that the chambers and passages afford no indication of damp, and the air seems remarkably free from any impurity.

When we consider the elevation of the castle grounds and the porous nature of the subsoil, it will at once appear evident that some expedient must have been

devised to render the moat impervious. In 1813, during the progress of surface excavations, a lining of clay, about eighteen inches in thickness, was discovered.

Here, as the evening shadows betoken the close of a calm summer day, we may wander listlessly in perfect enjoyment of the many pleasing scenes around, and it will require no unusual strain upon the imagination to vividly picture the old fortress of feudal times, and to people it with inmates whose manners and modes of life were far removed from what now prevails; and if our thoughts are recalled to the present by suggestive surroundings, we shall find these eminently calculated to revive memories of former days amid the attractive environment of some venerable continental city.



Photo by]

RIVER SCENE IN THE WEALD: THE MEDWAY.

[T. A. Flemons.

CHAPTER V.

THE PRIORY AND PARK.

THE Priory of Reigate was situated in the district of the parish known as Stanton, and occupied an exceptionally choice site on an undulating tract of meadow land immediately adjoining the town on the south. It was founded by William de Warren, Earl of Surrey, and son of Earl Hamelin, previously alluded to, was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the Holy Cross, and consisted of a prior and a few regular canons of the order of St. Augustine. The historians, Speed and Reyner, call it the house of the Crutched Friars, probably because of its dedication to the Holy Cross; and Stevens, a later writer, gives 1245 as the date of its foundation; but William de Warren, the undoubted founder of the priory, died in 1240, and the religious order referred to did not arrive in England till 1244. Bishop Tanner observes that some documents speak of it as a hospital, and that the head is styled a warden, but in all important records it is invariably called a priory, and this without doubt was the nature of the foundation.

The Priory manor, as originally forming a part of the possessions of the Earls of Warren, was held under the baronial manor of Reigate "by service of one-fourth part of a knight's fee." The revenues of the fraternity, whose house stood a few yards south of the present edifice, were not at any time very considerable. In the survey of the manor of Reigate, made in the twenty-first year of the reign of James I., it is stated that there were here "a faire pond well stored with fish, and a small breed of hearons." The pond still remains, and in all probability representatives of the fish, but the "hearons" have long since disappeared.

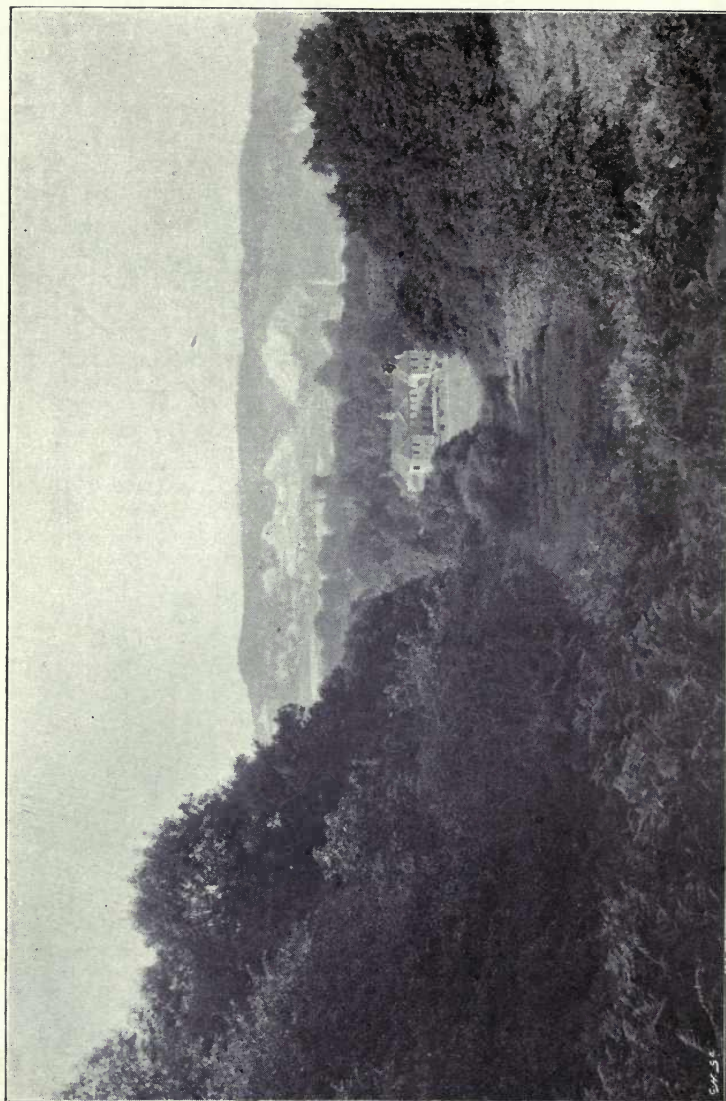


Photo by]

VIEW OF REIGATE PRIORY FROM THE PARK.

[Robinson & Son, Redhill.

The subjoined extract, from a charge given by Sir John Thurland at a Court Baron of Elizabeth, Countess of Peterborough, held at Reigate in 1644, is of some interest in this connection:—

“In the time of Henry III. there came here into England certain Friars with a bull from Pope Innocent III., purporting the creating of a new order of Friars, called Friars of the Holy Crosse, for that their badge was *gerere cruces in baculis*. At their first coming all the Monastic Orders, as well as the Benedictines, &c., and the rest of the Monks in England, did oppose their settling here in England, pretending that the Pope had formerly decreed against the creating new orders of Friars, as very prejudicial to the more ancient orders, for that the people, being commonly in love with novelties, were more addicted to these new orders than to support the ancient. At length, by the power of Earl Warren, then Lord of this Maner, they were at first planted here at Regate and at Guildford, and so he first endowed them, and gave them parcel of the demesnes of this Maner, first for their habitation, and then for their support. . . . In success of time this Prior grew to be considerable in revenews, having in possession two Mannors, Southwicke and Westhumble, and two impropriations, Dorking and Capell, and the Advowson of Mickleham. In service good store, in demesnes very wealthy. Now it was ripe for the sicle, and then comes the Statute of 27 Henry VIII., and dissolves this Monastery, and settles it in the Crown, and from thence it is derived by conveyance and succession unto this honourable Lady.”

As this gentleman subsequently became a Baron of the Exchequer, we may assume that his legal acumen exceeded his historical accuracy; at all events, the “sicle” did not here gather the abundant harvest his statement would lead us to infer.

The first prior of whom mention is made was appropriately named Adam, and installed about 1298; and we are informed that under his rule two citizens of London became munificent benefactors when they assumed the religious habit. The last of his sixteen successors was

John Lymden, elected in 1530. After Prior Lymden had held office for five years the establishment was suppressed in accordance with an enactment of Parliament, which granted to the king all religious houses whose annual revenues did not exceed £200. The prior obtained a yearly pension of £10, which, it is recorded, he continued to receive in 1553.



Photo by] CHIMNEY-PIECE IN HALL OF THE PRIORY. [Robinson & Son, Redhill.

The site of the priory was granted in 1541 to Lord William Howard, afterwards Lord Howard of Effingham, and father to the great admiral of Armada fame, in exchange for the Middlesex Rectory of Tottenham. Charles, third Earl of Peterborough, who succeeded to the ownership in 1675, sold the Priory estate soon after to Sir John Parsons, Alderman and Lord Mayor of London; and the executors of Humphrey Parsons, his son and successor, again disposed of the property in 1766 to Richard Ireland. The present mansion, called

Reigate Priory, which occupies a portion of the old site and precincts, was erected by Mr. Ireland in 1779, when an earlier edifice, built by Lord William Howard, was to a large extent demolished. It is a handsome structure of pleasing elevation, consisting of a centre and two wings, and contains some well-proportioned apartments; but the most notable internal feature is undoubtedly the finely designed and elaborately carved chimney-piece in the hall. The principal portion of it is said to have been transferred hither from Nonsuch Palace, a former Tudor possession, when the older Priory house was erected by Lord William Howard after the dissolution of the monasteries. Evelyn, however, asserts that it was taken from the Manor House of Henry VIII. at Bletchingley.

The beautiful grounds surrounding the house, and extending to about seventy-six acres, are tastefully laid out in well-ordered terraced lawns, ornamented with pretty flower beds and choice shrubs, and enclosed by carefully disposed plantations, among which are dispersed some fine specimens of venerable trees. About the beginning of the present century this pleasant seat came, by purchase, into the possession of the family of Lord Somers; and Lady Henry Somerset, the present owner, and daughter of the late earl, is well known as an active promoter of various philanthropic measures and benevolent schemes.

We must not omit to mention that James II., when Duke of York, resided at the Priory, as did the Rev. John Foxe, of martyrology fame, at an earlier period, in the capacity of tutor to a youthful member of the Norfolk family, and that the renowned Archbishop Usher died here in 1656.

Reigate Park constitutes a part of the original demesnes of the manor, and contains about 150 acres. It is situated on the south side of the borough, and may be reached from the Town Hall by proceeding down Bell Street, passing under the shadow of the stately old trees of the Priory estate, and ascending the rise of Cockshut Hill, until we perceive an unpretentious but singularly picturesque entrance, denoted by an ordinary field and a swing gate on the right, opposite an attractive and pleasantly

situated mansion appropriately named Parkgate. A series of pathways lead up a gentle incline, and southward extend fertile undulating pasture lands sheltered by fine oaks and beeches of mature growth. These enclosed private grounds, to all appearance, formed in early times a portion of the park property. Rounded verdant knolls on the left separate well-wooded narrow dells, bordered with hawthorns, blackthorns, and elders, and displaying a rich and varied undergrowth of creepers, ferns, and wild flowers. Beyond these the Priory is observed romantically situated amidst a charming environment of green lawns, gardens, and shrubberies, well protected by encircling plantations. Glancing backward as a slight eminence is approached, a pleasant landscape view in miniature is afforded, with the chalk downs and Gatton Park as a background. Here a path leads northward down a woodland glade, opening up a delightful vista, and presenting a view of the Priory and its attractive surroundings; another on the left conducts to the village of South Park. Both, however, are to be avoided on the present occasion.

Directing our way through a group of lofty chestnuts and pines of venerable appearance, and diverging slightly to the right, we ascend a steep declivity, and emerging over the crest, attain the eastern termination of an elevated ridge, extending to upwards of half a mile, and enveloped in a verdant covering of beautiful soft, yielding turf. On the northern side are a succession of glens studded with oaks, beeches, birches, and other forest growths, and abounding with a wide range of luxuriant vegetation. The wooded dale beneath is bounded by the grounds of the Priory estate, which materially contribute to extend the landscape and increase its beauty. To the south, the more abrupt slopes of the ridge are clothed with gorse and ferns, interspersed with clumps of trees, and terminate westward in a copse of sturdy oaks.

Here a charming prospect and an exceedingly varied scene is presented in all directions. Southward we are afforded a magnificent view over a vast expanse of Weald scenery, extending in all its varying beauty and changing hues to the confines of the South Downs,

bounded on the east by the uplands of Kent, and spreading westward to the promontory which terminates conspicuously in Leith Hill. On the east, over the urban district of Redhill and its rural surroundings, among which the wooded park lands of High Trees stand out prominently to view, we perceive the distant and monotonously outlined extension of the chalk range proceeding far into the adjoining county. Turning



A WEALD VILLAGE: PENSURST.

northward, and overlooking the dense tree foliage which intercepts a view of the Priory grounds, we have the historic Vale of Holmesdale in the immediate foreground, and here the widely dispersed buildings of Reigate and its suburbs appear amidst a wealth of fine timber growth, eminently suggestive of a new town arising out of the interspersed open spaces of some ancient forest. The alternating shades, mingled hues, and endless contrasts of multitudinous walls, gables, and roofs, reflecting the glistening rays of a brilliant noonday sun, combine to form a lovely picture, in which the delicate verdure of

the castle mound, the clear outline of the graceful spire and imposing elevation of St. Mark's Church, and the subdued tone of the stately massive tower of the parish church form prominent and pleasing features. Beyond the valley, and bounding our horizon, is the elevated ridge of chalk downs, denuded and disfigured by a series of excavations of apparently gigantic dimensions, and having the rounded projections and undulating sides elsewhere clothed with a network of plantations and woods, reaching to, and extending along, the summit. Directing our attention westward, over Reigate Heath into the sylvan valleys, where Dorking occupies a favoured position and Box Hill constitutes a leading feature in a diversified landscape, we lose sight of the more broken inland extension of the North Downs in the dim distance over the crests of intervening wooded uplands.

The fragmentary facts of the early history of our immediate vicinity, as derived from the few records available, require only a brief recital. In the survey of 1622 it is said that "the Old Park is well stored with timber trees, and well replenished with deer." Some vestiges of the former still remain; but, as may be expected, no trace whatever of the latter. About 1635 it was disparked by Lord Monson, who then held possession of the manor, and the trees were cut down. Lord Monson is supposed to have at the same time denuded Earlswood Common, the Wray, and Peteridge Wood of their abundant growth of timber; and we are told that "instead of trees, he filled them with rabbits, to the great annoyance and damage of the commoners." The latter united for the purpose of offering effective resistance, but we are not informed of the result of their combined action; however, warrens have not existed in recent years. Apparently, Australia has not been the first country to experience a plague of rabbits, nor Ireland the only place where agrarian difficulties occur; moreover, there were no enlightened statesmen prepared to introduce Ground Game Acts in those days.

As we proceed westward over the ridge, the scene in that direction expands and increases in variety and

interest ; whilst the receding view on the opposite side becomes obstructed by the intervention of our former point of observation. A seat has been placed at the eastern extremity, under a group of old sycamores, and another at the farther termination, under a corresponding cluster of ancient chestnuts ; and, from the latter position, a path conducts to a lower level, and into the picturesque highway known as Park Lane, which enters the town close by the handsome modern entrance to the Priory.

Below the trees unnumbered rise
Beautiful, in various dyes ;
The gloomy pine, the poplar blue,
The yellow beech, the sombre yew,
The slender fir that taper grows,
The sturdy oak with broad-spread boughs.—*Dyer.*



REIGATE HEATH.

CHAPTER VI.

MODERN REIGATE.

THE town of Reigate consists of two principal streets, one, High Street, extending due west from the Town Hall, or former Market House, and the other, Bell Street, proceeding almost directly south. Both unite at the Market Place, which occupies a rectangular space, having the Town Hall on the west, and the White Hart Hotel in Bell Street on the opposite side. On the south, in High Street, is the Swan Inn, records relating to which are extant as remote as 1452; and on the north side is situated the handsome modern edifice, occupied conjointly by the Capital and Counties Bank and the Reigate Constitutional Club. The latter contains an excellent reading-room, spacious billiard and card-rooms, library, and the requisite subsidiary accommodation. Of the many caves excavated in the sand rock beneath the dwelling foundations in this locality, the largest and most interesting one, extending to upwards of 100 feet in length, and lighted by gas, may be entered from the basement of the club premises.

The ancient Market Place was at the west end of the town, where Nutley Lane joins High Street at the entrance of the old London Road. The site, beneath which exists a vault or crypt ribbed with freestone, is still recognised as the "Owlde Market Place." About the time of the Reformation the market was removed to its present position on the opposite side of the town, and a chapel, which had been dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, and early frequented by pilgrims travelling by the adjacent route over the downs, was then used as a market house; and, moreover, as the assizes were formerly held in the borough, this chapel was also used as a court of justice.

The present Market House and Town Hall, united in a plain red brick building, were erected about the year 1708; and in 1801, on the removal of an old structure which stood on the east side, the workmen came upon some remains of the original foundation of the chapel, which were removed; and at the same time a clock was placed in the turret of the Town Hall. A short distance



Photo by] VIEW OF REIGATE FROM CASTLE GROUNDS. [Robinson & Son, Redhill.

southward from the White Hart Hotel in Bell Street stood a chapel, dedicated to St. Lawrence, the walls and roof of which were entire in 1804, as those of a dwelling house, into which it had been converted, and a portion still remains. On the north side of High Street, towards the west, was a third chapel, dedicated to the Holy Cross.

Proceeding westward, through High Street, our attention is at first arrested by the handsome façade of the new building occupied by the London and County Bank,

on the south side. Situated a short distance beyond is the Public Hall, erected in a Gothic style in 1861, at an expenditure of £5,000. The principal hall will accommodate 500 persons, and the basement comprises the reading and other rooms of the Literary Society, which was established in 1837, and possesses a library of over 4,000 volumes. Other portions of the building are appropriated to the museum of the Holmesdale Natural History Club, and a Freemasons' Lodge. Separated from the Public Hall by the Police and Fire Stations is the Congregational Chapel, erected in 1831, and enlarged with a stone frontage in 1869. The Wesleyan Chapel, a few yards farther on, on the same side, is an elegant structure, in the Romanesque style, and was built in 1884, from the designs of Mr. Boreham, at a cost of £5,000.

Approaching the site of the original market place, we arrive at a point where West Street, Nutley Lane, Park Lane, and the London Road converge with High Street. At the termination of the narrow streets proceeding westward we remark some antiquated timbered houses, and looking southward down Park Lane, observe the handsome lodge buildings and entrance gates of the Priory. Turning to the north, and following the curved course of the old London Road, we pass the National Schools on the left, and soon after arrive at the entrance to the castle grounds, and of the adjoining residence known as Castle Keep (W. Megginson, Esq.), on our right. Directing our way northward, over the level crossing at the railway station, we approach a very pleasant and fashionable residential district. The picturesque road in front is bordered on each side by a succession of villas and mansions, surrounded by gardens and ornamental grounds. Several somewhat similar highways branch off in easterly and westerly directions, the former leading to Wray Park and Common, and the most prominent of those diverging the latter way appears to be Somers Road, where the High School for Girls, in connection with the Church Schools Company, is situated.

An avenue on our right leads to St. Mark's Church, an imposing stone edifice in the Early Decorated style,

erected by subscription in 1860 at an expense, inclusive of that of the parsonage, amounting to £9,000. It consists of a chancel, nave of five bays, aisles, transepts, a north porch, and a tower, surmounted by a spire, and containing a clock and three bells. The living is a vicarage, with a yearly income of £240, in the gift of the Bishop of Rochester, and at present held by the Rev. Arthur Simmonds, M.A. This ecclesiastical parish was constituted at the time of building the church from outlying portions of the civil parishes of Reigate and Buckland.

Returning to the market place from the railway station by the direct road, we pass the Moat House (Misses Grossmith), occupying an elevated position on the right, observe a footpath across a meadow eastward to Church Street, and proceed through the tunnel, about sixty yards in length, constructed under the castle grounds in 1823 to avoid the circuitous course of the old London and Brighton Road, and thus materially lessen the distance to the former place.

Arrived at the market place, we now turn to the east by Church Street, and passing Elmshade (C. A. Hardman, Esq.), and Reigate Lodge (Sir Arthur T. Watson, Bart.), on our left, and the Barons (J. T. Richardson, Esq.), the Vicarage (Rev. J. Newman Harrison, M.A.), and the Wilderness (W. D. Freshfield, Esq.), successively on the opposite southern side, at length reach the Croydon Road, leading northward between the finely timbered grounds of Reigate Lodge and Great Doods, through Wray Common, to Gatton and Merstham. A few yards farther, where Delville (W. Slingsby Ogle, Esq.) appears prominently in front, Chart Lane conducts us to the parish church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene.

This ancient structure, dating from the twelfth century, is built of the native freestone, and consists of a chancel with north and south chapels, a nave of five bays, aisles, a south porch, and an embattled western tower of excellent proportions and massive appearance, containing a fine peal of eight bells. The pillars of the nave belong to the Transition-Norman period, but the greater portion of the present edifice is in the Perpendicular style.

When the chancel and chapels were restored in 1845, an interesting reredos of the Late Decorated period was discovered on removing some woodwork behind the altar. The vestry, built about the same time as the chancel, probably between 1450 and 1500, was added to in the early part of the sixteenth century. The nave, renovated and re-seated in 1858, was further restored with the aisles and tower in 1874—78, under the direction of Sir G. Gilbert Scott, at a cost of nearly £8,000. On the south



Photo by]

REIGATE PARISH CHURCH.

[Flint, Redhill.

side of the sanctuary are three sedilia, and adjoining them is a piscina, another being in the south chancel. There are several beautiful painted windows, chiefly erected as memorials.

The Parochial Library was founded in 1701 by the Rev. Andrew Cranston, the then vicar, with the assistance of Mr. John Evelyn, Sir John Parsons, Mr. Speaker Onslow, Sir John Thurland, and other donors. It now contains 1,700 volumes, with some MSS. and specimens of early printing, and has recently been removed to a room over the vestry from its former place in the tower.

The first vicar of whom any records are preserved was Edward de Dorking, appointed in 1311, and the present incumbent, the Rev. John Newman Harrison, has held the living since 1847. The register dates from 1546.

Charles, Lord Howard of Effingham, of Armada fame, who subsequently became Earl of Nottingham, lies buried in the vault of the Howard family on the south side of the chancel. In 1888, the tercentenary of the defeat of the Armada, a brass was erected to his memory in the chancel. The lead coffin beneath bears the following inscription:—"Heare lyeth the body of Charles Howarde, Earle of Nottinghame, Lorde High Admyrall of Englande, Generall of Queene Elizabethes Navy Royall att Sea agaynst the Spanyard's invinsable Navy, in the year of our Lord 1588; who departed this life att Haling Howse, the 14 daye of December, in ye yeare of our Lorde 1624, C^tatis sve 87."

The elaborate memorial in the north chancel to Richard Ladbroke, Esq., of Frenches, who died in 1730, which was erected at a cost of £1,500, will immediately arrest attention, although the taste of former generations, as here extravagantly displayed, may fail to be appreciated. The monument at the east end, with a pillared canopy, contains recumbent figures in white marble of Sir Thomas Bludder, of Flanchford Place, and his wife, who died within a week of each other in 1618. The effigies of Richard Elyot and his son, who lived at the Lodge, and died respectively in 1609 and 1612, are also in the north chancel, and a kneeling figure of Katherine, the daughter, who died in 1623, occupies a niche in the south chancel; whilst a brass to the memory of Elizabeth Thurland, sister and co-heiress of the first named, is placed in the centre of the chancel floor. In the churchyard, to which the cemetery is attached, an obelisk has been erected to Baron Maseres, who formerly resided at the Barons, and died in 1824; and a large monument of excellent design and skilful workmanship, denotes the resting place of Rebecca, wife of Walter Blanford Waterloo, Esq., of High Trees.

A walk or lane leading westward from the approach to the church tower, between the boundaries of Cherchefelle

(G. Jackson, Esq.) and Sunnyside (Mrs. Farquhar), enters Church Street near the Barons, and a branch path on the left conducts to the southern extremity of Bell Street. We propose, however, to follow the continuation of Chart Lane, with the undulating well-planted grounds of Sunnyside on our right, and soon reach the Drill Hall and Armoury of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. From this point westward to Cockshut Hill, in a district known as Lesbourne Lands, an assemblage of modest, comfortable dwellings, chiefly occupied by tradesmen and artizans, line several parallel and transverse streets. Selecting Glover's Road as our line of route, we enter Parkgate Street at its termination, and follow a direct course until we reach the rural entrance to Reigate Park, in the London and Brighton road, and on the northern incline of Cockshut Hill, where the pretty mansion distinguished as Parkgate is charmingly situated. Turning towards the town we have the enclosed grounds and plantations of the Priory on our left, as Holmfels (Miss Baker) and other attractive residences are passed on the opposite side, and entering Bell Street observe on the west side the general Post Office, a handsome edifice of modern erection, as the only feature worthy of remark. Having arrived at the White Hart Hotel in the market place, we conclude an interesting tour of inspection.

CHAPTER VII.

REDHILL.

THE town of Redhill evidently derived its name from the singular appearance of the red-tinted sand, formerly excavated in considerable quantities at the eastern extremity of the elevated ridge, that is partly comprised in the Common, and which at first received the appellation. The earliest recorded reference to Redhill, as applied to this eminence, appears to be in connection with a Royalist insurrectionary movement headed by the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Holland, and Lord Peterborough, in 1648. The insurgents marched from Kingston in Surrey to Reigate, and obtained possession of the town and castle, but were there defeated by a detachment of Parliamentary cavalry, under the command of Major Audeley, which had been stationed at Redhill. There are extant two letters of instruction, dated 1659, and addressed by Lieutenant-General Fleetwood to Major Audeley, relative to some apprehended Royalist disturbances in the vicinity of Redhill, at the time when the waning influence and declining power of the Commonwealth revived the aspirations of the monarchical party, and favoured restoration enterprises.

The urban district includes portions of the old Reigate manors of Redstone, Frenches, Linkfield, and Howleigh, or as now rendered, Hooley. Apart from the farmhouse, inn, and adjacent cottages, which constituted the diminutive hamlet of Linkfield Street, the manor houses of the estates mentioned, some small cottages in Linkfield Lane, a few others adjoining Earlswood Common, the old farmhouse at High Trees, and another near Wray Common, were the only residences in the locality within a comparatively recent period. The London and Brighton Railway, with local stations at Hooley, and at Battlebridge

near Merstham, was opened in 1841; and the subsequent extensions eastward to Dover and westward to Reading, of the South Eastern Company, necessitated a railway junction at Redhill, and the construction of a new highway communication. In 1846 building enterprises were manifestly stimulated by the conversion of a considerable quantity of land, belonging to Lord Monson, into suitable residential sections, and houses began to be erected in

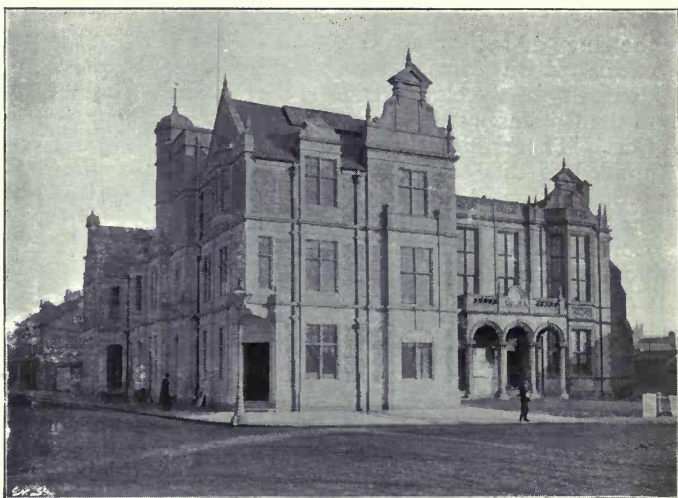


Photo by]

MARKET HALL, REDHILL.

[Robinson & Son, Redhill.

Warwick Road, Station Road, High Street, and Grove Road. The first dwellings of any importance on these several sites were built in Station Road, opposite where St. Matthew's Church is now situated, and the newly-populated district was for some time designated Warwick Town; but in process of time local association so influenced popular methods of nomenclature, that the rapidly developed and increasing town became known as Redhill; and we may conclude that the choice, accorded general favour, in this respect exemplified an application of the law governing "the survival of the fittest."

The Market or Town Hall of Redhill occupies a position in close proximity to the railway junction, opposite the market enclosure, where Station Road, proceeding due westward, is intersected at right angles by the new London and Brighton coach road, constructed in 1815 as a direct line of communication between Gatton Corner and Peteridge Common, and now termed London Road in its northern extension, and High Street and Brighton Road, successively, in the continuation southward from this central point. The edifice, thus conveniently situated, is of somewhat imposing appearance in the Elizabethan style, and was erected, in 1860, of Bath and local stone combined, at a cost of £3,400. An assembly room, with an orchestra at the western end and a gallery at the opposite extremity, occupies the first floor, and affords accommodation for about 800 persons. The ground floors are utilised as offices for municipal purposes. In 1891 extensive additions were made at an expenditure of about £6,000. These new buildings include a second hall, used for meetings of the Town Council and parochial authorities, and for sittings of the County Court; the library, reading, and billiard rooms of the Literary Institution; a new Post Office; and premises for the Capital and Counties Bank. The Redhill Literary Institute, here alluded to, numbers about 400 members, and possesses a library of 3,000 volumes, in connection with a reading-room, amply provided with newspapers and periodicals, and a commodious billiard room.

That portion of the Station Road which lies between the Town Hall and the railway is bordered by the market field on the south, and has a row of business premises opposite. The Technical Institute and the Schools of the Royal Asylum of St. Anne's Society are adjacent to the railway station, on the eastern side. The latter is a handsome red brick structure, and was erected in 1884 at an outlay of nearly £40,000. It provides accommodation for 400 children, and the grounds extend to upwards of twenty acres. The premises comprise large class-rooms, spacious dormitories, a library for senior boys, headmaster's house, rooms for chaplain, second and assistant

masters, and governesses ; and there are also a detached chapel, separate infirmaries, covered playgrounds, a gymnasium, swimming bath, and cricket field.

The London Road, extending northward to Gatton, contains numerous shops and business offices in that part nearest to the Market Hall. The enclosed cricket ground, maintained in excellent order, is conveniently situated on the eastern side, and nearly opposite the Ordnance Survey Office occupies Chigwell House. When Frenches, the site of the historical manor house of that name, is reached, we are in the centre of a pleasant residential locality, abounding with mansions and villas, surrounded by neatly arranged private grounds, and in many instances pasture lands, more or less interspersed with plantations. The continuation of the London Road southward in High Street, from the point of intersection with Station Road, and in Brighton Road, after passing under the railway arch, is almost exclusively occupied by premises devoted to business purposes. The Roman Catholic Chapel, an exceptionally well-designed structure of elegant appearance, is situated in Brighton Road, as is also a Primitive Methodist Chapel, and close to the former, in Chapel Street, stands the Congregational Church, erected in 1862 at a cost of £2,400.

Proceeding westward, through Station Road from the Market Hall, we pass the majority of the principal houses of business in this main street on reaching the Warwick Hotel, where Warwick Road branches northward to unite with Gloucester Road and Linkfield Lane in succession. The Conservative Club and the offices of the Waterworks Company are in Warwick Road, and immediately opposite its entrance into Station Road is a Wesleyan Chapel, erected in 1867 ; another occupies a suburban site in Earlswood Road. A Baptist Chapel, built in 1858, is situated on the opposite side of the street, not far from our starting point ; others are in the London Road and at Shaw's Corner.

A short distance beyond the junction of Warwick Road, St. Matthew's Church is placed in a pleasant position on our right. An ecclesiastical parish for the district was constituted in 1867, when the church, a

handsome edifice of excellent proportions, was erected, at an expenditure of £7,200, of Reigate and Bath stone, in the Early Decorated style, and intended to seat about 900 persons. It consists of a chancel, nave, aisles,

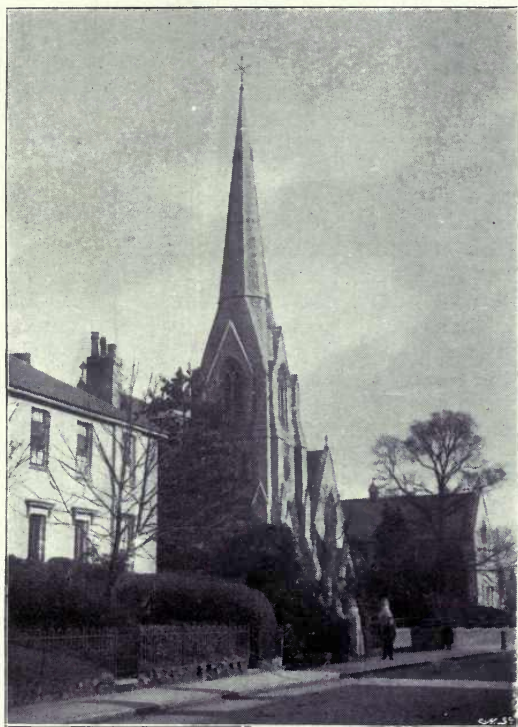


Photo by] ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, REDHILL. [*Robinson & Son, Redhill.*

transepts, and a north-western tower, with a lofty spire, containing a clock and one bell. The stained glass east window was presented by H. Webb, Esq., in 1880, and several other painted windows were given by subsequent donors. The living, a perpetual curacy of the annual value of £470 with a residence, is in the

gift of the Bishop of Rochester, and held since 1866 by the Rev. Henry Brass, M.A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

As we continue our walk westward, the line of route on either side is bordered by the pretty gardens and shrubberies of detached villa residences, until the railway bridge is approached, when shops again betoken a more animated scene. Here Linkfield Lane branches off in a north-easterly direction to join Warwick Road, and afterwards unites with London Road; and, on the opposite side, Cromwell Road proceeds eastward to its junction with High Street, and Linkfield Street curves southward up an incline to White Post Hill. We enter Hatchlands Road beyond the railway bridge, and pass in succession the three parallel suburban thoroughfares, known as Ranelagh, Shrewsbury, and Brownlow Roads, lined with villa residences, and all leading to White Post Hill. When Shaw's Corner is reached we turn to the left, and at the south-western extremity of Redhill Common follow the trend eastward of the highway, which conducts us past the Reigate and Redhill Cottage Hospital, at the junction of Ranelagh and Elms Roads, and thence leads up White Post Hill to the more elevated position near the lodge entrance to Garlands (A. Thompson, Esq.), where Linkfield Street, Bridge Road, and Ridgeway Road converge before uniting with the route we traverse.

Redhill Common may be conveniently explored from this point, but on the present occasion we direct our course by the road forming its eastern boundary, and pass the recently formed and planted recreation grounds, occupying the site of former extensive sand excavations, where the characteristic colour of the strata is abundantly displayed. Before reaching St. John's Church, our objective point, we observe the large, well-arranged buildings of the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots, situated in the valley beneath our position. This institution, founded in 1847, and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1862, was considerably enlarged in 1870, and subsequently had a detached infirmary erected. It has now about 650 inmates under treatment, and provides private accommodation of a superior kind for those patients who

can afford to pay remunerative charges. To the east, towards Nutfield, is the Farm School of the Philanthropic Society, for the reformation and training of juvenile offenders. This society, originally instituted in 1788, and incorporated in 1806, founded its establishment here in 1849; and it is the parent of the numerous reformatories which have since arisen in various parts of the kingdom. The buildings, attached to a farm of about



Photo by]

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, REDHILL.

[Flint, Redhill.

300 acres, consist of five separate dwellings, in which 300 boys receive industrial instruction of various kinds. As we descend to a lower level, the National Schools are perceived on our right opposite the church.

The ecclesiastical parish of St. John the Evangelist was formed in 1844, and the church, erected the previous year, is a fine edifice, of pleasing design and imposing elevation, in the Gothic style. It consists of a chancel, nave, aisles, west porch, and a handsome western tower, with a spire, containing a clock and a peal of eight bells. A white marble font was presented in 1882 by the friends

and parishioners of the Rev. H. Gosse, on his resignation of the incumbency after a tenure of thirty-six years. Material alterations were made in 1889, under the direction of Mr. J. L. Pearson, R.A., which included the erection of a new chancel, and new roof to the nave, and the restoration of the west front; and the church at present affords accommodation for 760 persons. The living, a vicarage of the yearly value of £300 with a residence, is in the



Photo by]

INTERIOR OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

[Flint, Redhill.

gift of the Bishop of Rochester, and has been held since 1882 by the Rev. J. S. M. Gordon, M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford. We may ascend the elevated ridge of Redhill Common by means of a pathway from the church, and thence by Ridgeway Road, Grove Hill Road, and High Street reach the central point at the Market Hall, where our itinerant survey commenced.

CHAPTER VIII.

GATTON PARK AND MERSTHAM.

THE commencement of the Croydon Road, separating the finely timbered environment of Reigate Lodge from the well-planted grounds surrounding the old mansion of Great Doods, at a point immediately opposite the Wilderness, may be reached from the White Hart Hotel or Town Hall in Reigate Market Place, by Church Street, and is approached in a reverse direction from Redhill Market Hall, by the continued westward line of Station, Hatchlands, and Reigate Roads. This broad, direct highway thence proceeds northward through a pleasant suburban district to Wray Common, occupying an elevated situation, intersected by various roads and footways, and bounded by neatly-kept hedgerows, enclosing the profuse shrubberies and protecting plantations of numerous handsome dwellings. Proceeding by the route towards Gatton and Merstham, as indicated by a conspicuous guide post, we traverse a singularly pretty rural way, bordered by rising terraced grass lands, interspersed with a varied woodland growth, and are afforded charming views into the sylvan valley extending eastward between the chalk downs by Merstham and the green-sand ridge stretching forward towards Nutfield and Bletchingley. We enter Gatton Park by the Nutwood or western gate, where a stately row of beeches and chestnuts line the opposite side of the highway, and soon after pass Nutwood Lodge (H. E. Gurney, Esq.), occupying a picturesque secluded situation on our right.

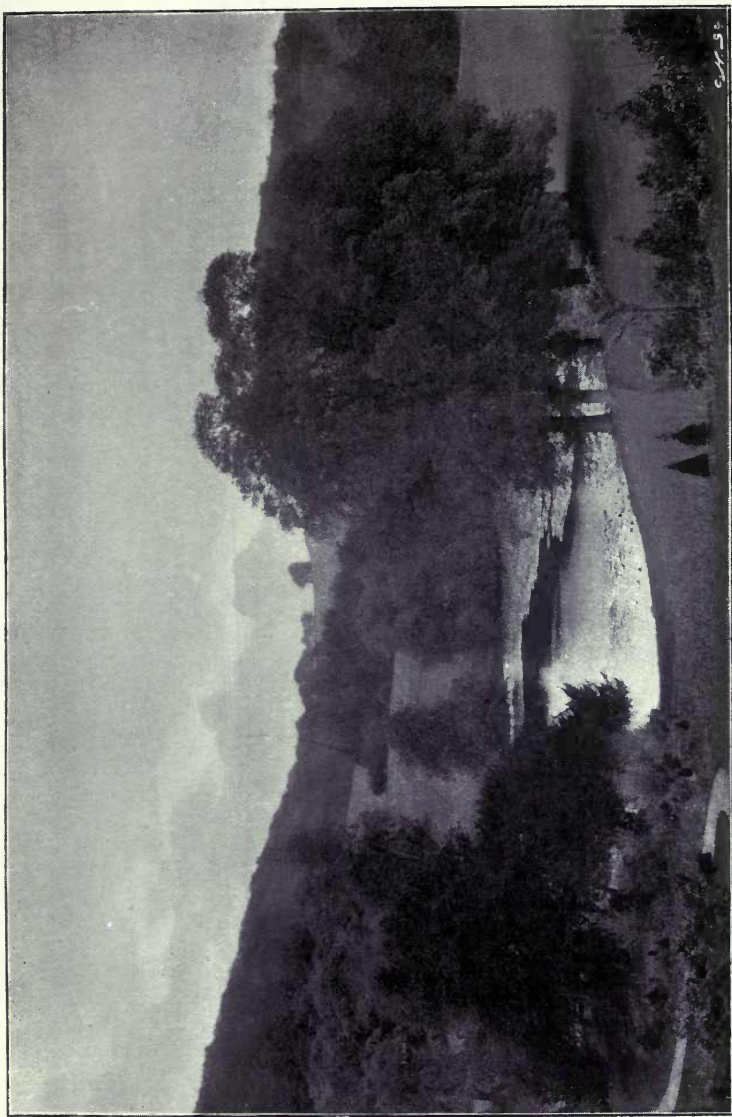
Gatton estate was purchased by the fifth Lord Monson for the sum of £100,000 two years previous to the introduction of the Reform Bill, when it returned two members to Parliament. On this occasion the noted George Robins prefaced his announcement of the sale by a local

adaptation of a well-known passage: "Throw wide the gates of Paradise, and enter Gatton Park." The park, without being quite paradisiacal, contains much beautiful scenery of a highly diversified character. Here are rounded and densely wooded eminences, there deep verdant depressions, again richly pastured undulating terraces and green banks, over which are dispersed noble groups of trees, with many solitary specimens whose grand proportions betoken a venerable age. The chalk subsoil here produces a singular effect upon the foliage, and in the early summer months the tree leafage assumes a golden appearance. The higher elevations command fine prospects over the immediate picturesque surroundings into the richly-wooded valley eastward towards the uplands of Kent; and the broad expanse of water forming the ornamental lake constitutes a central prominent feature, imparting increased loveliness and an additional charm to the inherent natural beauties of the scenes around.

The manor of Gatton is thus referred to in the Domesday Book:—

"Herfrid holds Gatone of the Bishop (of Baieux). Earl Leofwen held it, when it was assessed at 10 hides; now, at $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides. The arable land amounts to 5 carucates. There are in demesne 2 carucates; and there are six villains, and 3 bordars, with 2 carucates. There is a church; and 6 acres of meadow. The wood yields seven swine, for pannage and herbage. In the time of King Edward, it was valued at 6 pounds, as at present; but when received, at 3 pounds."

The Bishop of Bayeux at a later period aided Robert of Normandy against his brother Rufus, and in consequence forfeited the manor; and we find Hamo de Gatton, son of Herfrid, holding it of the king by knight service, and cognate feudal obligations. John Tymperly obtained a licence from Henry VI. in 1449, to "impark the manor of Gatton with pales and ditches," and two years afterwards the privilege to return two members to Parliament was conceded to it. The estate appears to have again reverted to the Crown, and is referred to in a deed of Henry VIII. bearing date of 1540. It was



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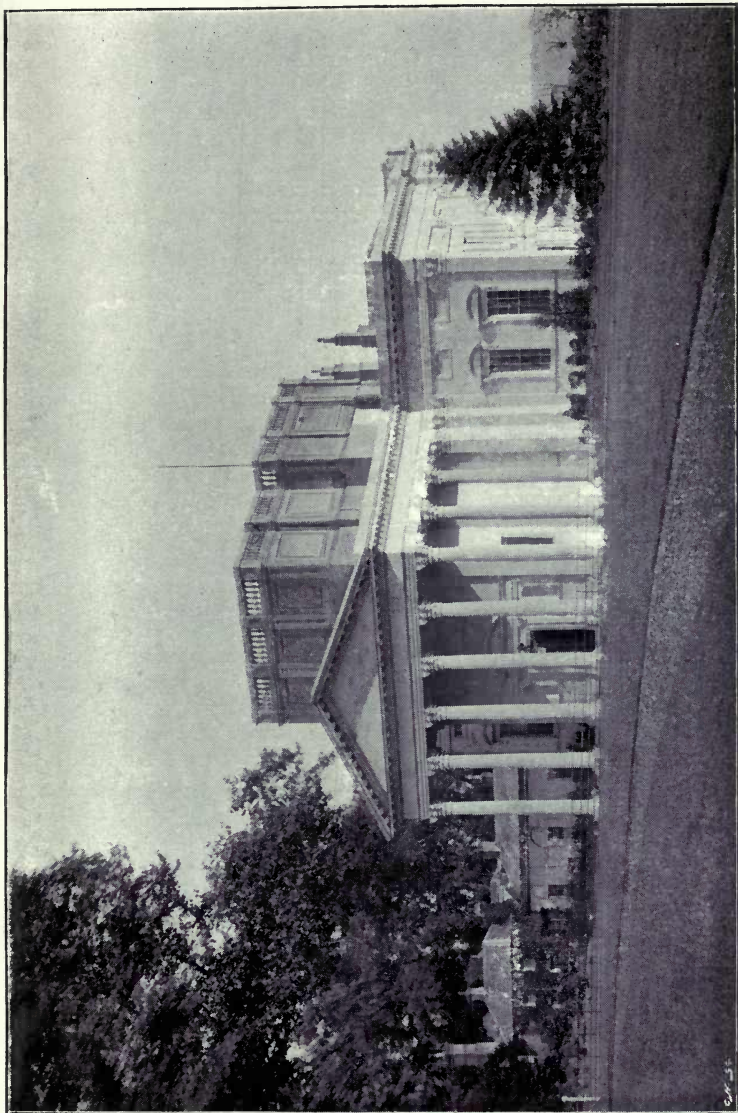
GATTIN PARK.

[Photo by Robinson & Son.]

subsequently held by the Copley family for upwards of a century, and after sundry changes of ownership came eventually into the possession of Sir Mark Wood. On the death of this gentleman, Lord Monson acquired the property, as already mentioned, and in 1888 the son of his cousin and successor, who became Viscount Oxenbridge, disposed of the demesne to Jeremiah Colman, Esq., J.P., D.L., who now occupies Gatton Hall.

Camden's account states that "A little from the Fountaines where the Mole springeth, standeth Gatton, which now is scarce a small Village, though in Times past it hath been a famous Towne. To prove the Antiquitie thereof, it sheweth Roman Coynes digged forth of the Ground, and sendeth unto Parliament two Burgesses." It appears, for many reasons, extremely improbable that an important town ever existed here, although some evidence may be adduced to support the claims to antiquity. The derivation of the name, implying the existence of a town at a remote period, united with the fact of the discovery mentioned, may indicate the establishment of a Roman fortified settlement at a point which commanded the valley and protected the adjacent ancient causeway; but the only reference to the position of such a fort is the vague one contained in Aubrey's statement that "where the fine Manour House now stands was formerly a Castle."

The privilege accorded to Gatton in 1451 of sending two burgesses to Parliament continued until 1832, when the Reform Bill terminated its franchise existence. The entire number of burgesses in this constituency rarely, if ever, exceeded twenty, and the lord of the manor so influenced and directed the elections that it is very doubtful whether on any occasion these few electors were permitted to make a free choice of their representatives. We indeed hear of a contested election in 1749, when the successful candidate obtained seven votes against six recorded for his opponent. In an extant document of the time of Henry VIII., mention is made of Sir Richard Copley, as the burgess and only inhabitant of the borough and town of Gatton, who freely elected and chose its two parliamentary members. When Sir



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CATTON HALL.

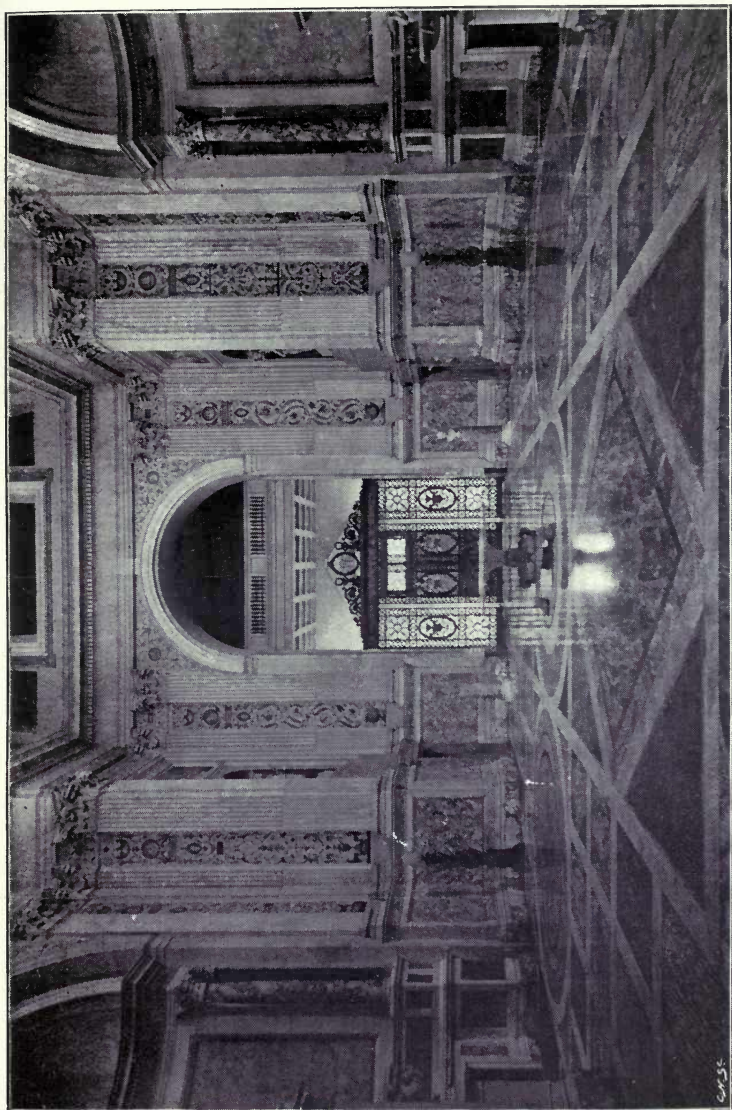
[Photo by Robinson & Son.

Mark Wood was proprietor in the early part of the present century, five of the six burgage dwellings were occupied by weekly tenants ; and, consequently, he possessed the sole right to select the borough representatives to the House of Commons. The Town Hall of Gatton is a diminutive structure of classic design, situated under a group of trees in close proximity to the Hall and church.

Gatton Hall, a stately edifice in the Italian style of architecture, was considerably enlarged and improved by Lord Monson after having acquired the estate ; and the present owner, Mr. Colman, has erected a handsome portico and otherwise altered and beautified the mansion in accordance with Lord Monson's original but unfulfilled designs. The principal feature of the house is the magnificent hall, with a matchless pavement of antique marbles. This pavement, composed chiefly of the Rosso, Giallo, and Verde Antico varieties, procured from the ruins of the Roman palace and bath, was designed for King Charles IV. of Spain, and purchased by Lord Monson at Rome in 1830 for £10,000. As to the hall itself we give Mr. Palgrave's graphic description :—

“In plan the hall follows the line of the Greek or equal-armed cross. The form and general arrangement resembles the Corsini Chapel, in the Church of San Giovanni in Laterano at Rome ; and it vies with this splendid mausoleum in the decorative effect of costly marbles. The design, however, is incomplete, the central dome being wanting. The height of the building is about ninety feet, and the extreme width about fifty feet. In the absence of the dome, a massy cornice from which it was to spring, fluted pilasters, and arched recesses, worked in Carrara marble with exquisite care, are the chief architectural points of the interior.

“But it is to the effect of colour, not of structure, that the hall owes its peculiar charm. Every part of the surface not decorated by carving is enriched by colour derived either from the tones of foreign marble or from the artist's skill. Arabesques, adapted from Rafael's designs in the Loggias of the Vatican, cover the flat spaces between the pilasters. On the lunettes, between



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THE MARBLE HALL GATTON.

[Photo by Robinson & Son.

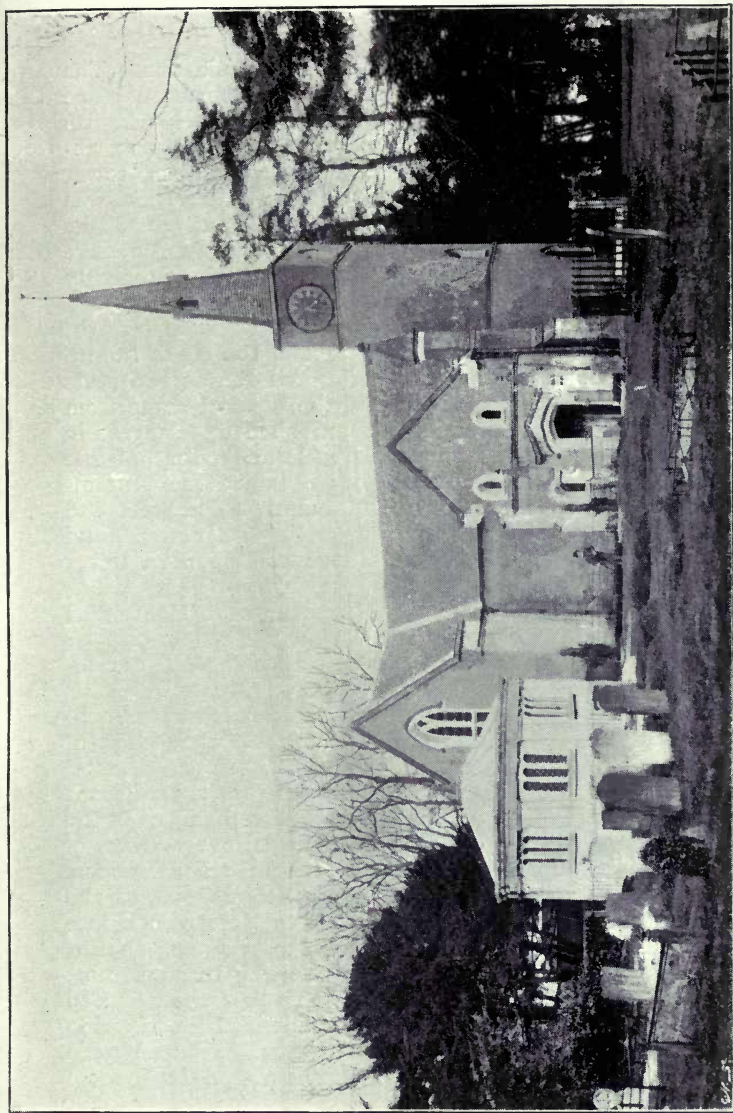
the principal arches, are painted four colossal figures, historical personages, typifying the following virtues—namely, Eleanor, Queen of Edward I., representing Fortitude; Esther, Prudence; Ruth, Meekness; and Penelope, Patience; below are infant genii playing with animals emblematical of these attributes. The wall over the entrance is covered by an architectural picture. It is a façade and balcony of Italian design, in which the painter Rafael is introduced holding a sketch of his fresco, 'The School of Athens'. Above is represented the scene in Sir Walter Scott's 'Talisman,' where Lady Edith drops the rose at Sir Kenneth's foot in the chapel of the Carmelite nuns at Engaddi.

"These works were executed by Mr. Severn shortly after his return from Italy. The figures in the lunettes are wrought with much elegance and individuality of motive; and the groups of children show a tender and varied invention. The colouring is sweet and transparent, and exhibits the special advantages of fresco painting in breadth of shadow and luminous effect."

This hall, entered through handsome bronze gates constructed by Bramah, contains some excellent sculptures by Gott, Dunbar, Croft, and others, in addition to a magnificent specimen of ancient Japanese bronze; and in the vestibule are a series of fine terra-cotta reliefs representing the "Labours of Hercules," discovered, with three similar designs, adorning the sides of a room in a villa at Roma Vecchia. The Vatican contains one of the remaining sets, another is in the house of Thorwaldsen, and the third, purchased by the King of Bavaria, is at Munich.

The library, tastefully furnished with choice ebony and ivory fittings, and containing a pair of very beautiful Japanese bronzes, has a chimney-piece that formerly belonged to Eugene de Beauharnais, stepson of the Emperor Napoleon I., surmounted by a glass, the frame of which, covered with exquisite carvings of fruit, flowers, and fish, forms an excellent specimen of Grinling Gibbons' unrivalled workmanship.

Gatton Church, closely environed and partially concealed by trees, occupies a position in the park near the



[Flint, Redhill.

GATTTON CHURCH.

Photo by.]

Hall, to which it has a private communication. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is a stuccoed stone edifice, dating from the semi-Norman or Early English period, and consists of a nave, chancel with two transept recesses, a north porch, and a western tower containing a clock and one bell. The interior was completely renovated by Lord Monson in 1834, and its present appearance, with canopied stalls in the nave and richly carved fittings throughout, is eminently suggestive of a college chapel. The canopies and wainscoting of the nave, bearing date of 1515, were brought from Aürschot Cathedral in Louvain, the stalls from a Benedictine monastery at Ghent, and the carved seats from Rouen. The panelling of the chancel came from Burgundy, the altar rails were supplied by Tongres in Flanders; and the communion table and pulpit, of fine design and exquisite workmanship, obtained from Nuremberg, are attributed to Albert Durer. The west end screen was abstracted from some English church, and all the coloured glass, with the exception of a tower window containing the arms of Henry VII. and a modern one inserted by Mr. Colman, were transferred hither from Aürschot Cathedral.

In the secluded churchyard is an octagonal mausoleum, containing the remains of Lord Monson and his mother, Lady Warwick; and a handsome monument to a member of the family of Jeremiah Colman, Esq., of Gatton Park.

From the park lodge and entrance that are adjacent to the church a footpath leads to Merstham, over the ridge proceeding eastward, and affords lovely views of valley and upland sylvan scenery in all directions. Entering the village, we turn northwards toward the escutcheoned and ivy-covered gates to Merstham House (Lord Hylton), and opposite the lodge, where an ancient timbered house stands, a pretty pathway through most picturesque surroundings conducts us past the beautiful grounds and richly wooded environment of the mansion to the ideal village church of Merstham, placed on a verdant knoll, with a pleasing background of fine old elms.

The Domesday record respecting this parish, in a modern rendering, is as follows:—

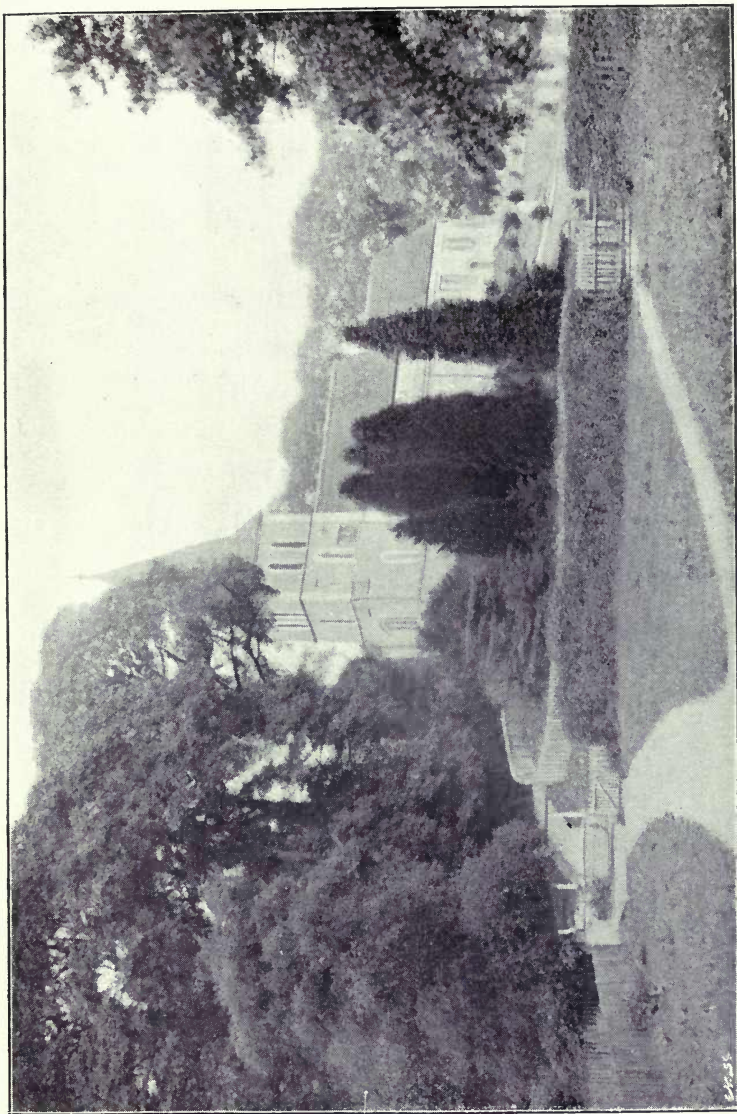
“In Cherchefelle Hundred, the Archbishop himself holds Merstham for the clothing of the monks. In the time of King Edward it was assessed at 20 hides; now, at 5 hides. The arable land amounts to 8 carucates. There are two in demesne, and 21 villains, and 4 bordars, with 8 carucates. There is a church, and a mill at 30 pence, and 8 bondmen, and 8 acres of meadow. The wood yields 25 swine for pannage, and 16 for herbage. In the time of King Edward the manor was valued at 8 pounds, afterwards at 4 pounds, and now at 12 pounds.”

The manor and church of Merstham were granted in 1018 by Athelstan, a younger son of the Saxon King Ethelred II., to the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury, and remained for many centuries attached to the cathedral. A lease drawn up in 1396, conveying the tenancy to John atte Dene and others, contains many interesting details, and a curious inventory, with the current prices of farm stock and implements specified. From it we learn, among various other particulars, that the Manor House had a chapel attached, in which the court rolls were kept in a chest, that the hall contained one chair, that the rent of land was about three shillings an acre, and the cost of making a plough sixpence; furthermore, it may be remarked that mention is made of iron having been procured at Charlwood. Henry VIII. diverted the estate from the monastic foundation, to which it still belonged at the time of the dissolution of religious houses, and assigned it to Sir Robert Southwell, sheriff of Surrey and Master of the Rolls. Sundry changes succeeded a brief tenure of the Southwell family, until the property was acquired by purchase in 1788 by William Joliffe, Esq., ancestor of Lord Hylton, the present owner and lord of the manor.

The church, dedicated to St. Katherine, consists of a nave, aisles, chancel with north and south chapels, south porch, and western tower, surmounted by a spire, containing a clock and five bells. The earlier portions of the edifice probably date from the middle

of the twelfth century. The font, a massive square block of Sussex marble, bears distinct characteristics of a period anterior to 1150, and the classic tendency that influenced the style which prevailed towards the close of the century is visible in the acanthus foliage displayed upon the capitals of the chancel arch. The chancel contains a pretty double piscina of decorated character, formed in the shape of acorn cups set among leaves. The lancet-windowed tower and the chancel are Early English, and the west door arch, a good specimen of the Early Decorated style, has the peculiar star flower ornament of the period. In common with much of the exterior stonework, it has undergone recent renovation. The chancel, north chapel, and porch, were in all probability added in the latter part of the fifteenth century, when Perpendicular tracery was introduced into the windows throughout the church. About the same time the aisle roofs were raised, and thus the clerestory windows were brought within the church; but recent restorations have remedied this defect by readjusting them to a lower level and proper incline. The porch, decorated with quatrefoiled apertures, has a niche over the doorway.

The most ancient of the monuments is a mutilated stone effigy, lately removed to the north chapel, which was discovered nearly a century ago, in a reversed position, forming a part of the chancel pavement. It is supposed to represent Nicholas Jamys, who was alderman and lord mayor of London at the commencement of the fifteenth century. The north chapel contains an altar tomb commemorative of John Elmebrygge, with brasses of his two wives and seven daughters; those for himself and his four sons are gone. He was lord of Albury Manor, in Merstham parish, is presumed to have founded this chancel chapel, and his death occurred in 1473. A fine brass with an armed figure, dated 1498, and recently removed from within the altar rails to the chancel floor, memorialises Sir John Newdegate, of an old Surrey family, who long held possession of Newdegate Place, in the parish of that name, some six miles south-east of Reigate. Near this are inserted in the pavement brasses to Thomas Elmebrygge and Joanna his



[Flint, Redhill.

MERSTHAM CHURCH.

Photo by]

wife, who died in the beginning of the sixteenth century; as also one with the earlier date of 1463 to John Ballard and his wife. A brass, placed in the south chapel and dated 1585, records the memory of Peter Best, one of the two children of Nicholas Best, of Aldersted, formerly so commemorated.

A shield, bearing three royal leopards, which is inserted in the wall over the tower arch, originally formed one of the bosses in the groining work of old London Bridge, and is of Merstham stone. The south aisle wall was formerly covered with frescoes, but these were almost entirely obliterated during the progress of restorations in 1861, when several old seats were cleared away and some good Perpendicular screenwork removed.

Of several excellent stained glass windows erected as memorials, the best undoubtedly is the remarkably fine coloured one placed in the north chapel to a member of Lord Hylton's family; but the most notable feature in this respect is the interesting remains of a beautiful old painted window in the south chapel. We must not omit to mention that the ancient west door in the tower exhibits some exceptionally choice specimens of wrought iron workmanship. The parish register, recording many details of local and general interest, dates from 1539.

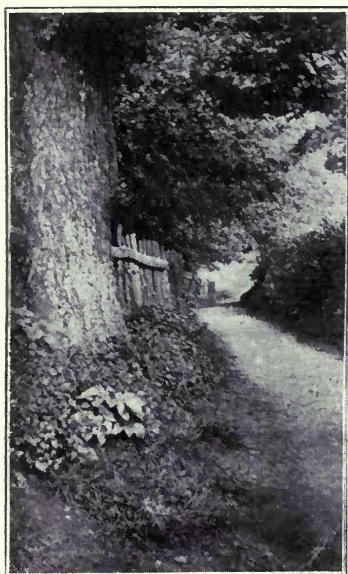
Retracing our steps to the village, we proceed southward; and, arriving near the railway station, follow the curve of the main road to the right. Thenceforward our route for some distance adjoins the boundary of Gatton Park. Nearly opposite a lodge entrance to the park, and in the vicinity of the railway line, is Battlebridge Farm, the traditional scene of the reputed annihilation of fugitive Danish forces by the Amazonian inhabitants of the neighbourhood, as earlier related. At Gatton Corner we turn to the left, close by the Hawthorns (W. F. Stutts, Esq.), and proceeding due south in a direct line by a broad open highway pass the Woodlands estate (R. H. Thompson, Esq.), and thence traversing a pleasant residential locality, soon reach that portion of London Road, occupied by business premises, which terminates at Redhill Market Hall.

CHAPTER IX.

PEDESTRIAN EXCURSIONS.

FIRST ROUTE.—From Redhill to Reigate.

DISTANCE $4\frac{1}{2}$ MILES.



A RURAL PATH.

FROM the Redhill Market Hall we proceed southward by High Street to the Pavement, and then turning to the right ascend the steep incline of Grove Hill Road until we reach Ridgeway Road on our left, which conducts us to the north-eastern extremity of the Common, close by the entrance lodge to Garlands (A. Thompson, Esq.). We here enter a prepared pathway leading westward over the green-sand ridge by a gentle rise. As we gradually attain higher elevations, fine views are afforded eastward, over the railway junction and Red-

stone Hill towards Nutfield, and into the sylvan valley at the foot of the downs; and beyond the town, in a northern direction, to Merstham, Gatton Park, and the chalk range. Keeping for a short distance to the left by

a group of trees on the summit, the extensive prospect commanded extends eastward by Tilburstow Hill into the far receding uplands of Kent; and southward, over St. John's Church and Earlswood Asylum and Common, embraces a wide area of the Weald of Surrey and Sussex, reaching to the distant ranges of the South Downs.

We are admitted at High Trees (M. Marcus, Esq.) by a swing-gate into an avenue, known as High Trees Road, which leads past the old ivy-covered farmhouse of a former generation and the entrance to the present mansion, beyond which Ringley Park Road descends amid a pleasant environment to the Reigate Road; and a little distance farther a footpath on the opposite side proceeds under an ornamental stone bridge to its termination at Meadvale. This charming route through beautiful park lands affords delightful views of the urban and rural scenery of the Holmesdale Valley, in which the massive old tower of the parish church and the graceful spire of St. Mark's appear prominent, with the wooded contour of the chalk down range from Gatton Park to Pebblecombe Valley as a background.

This avenue conducts us to the summit of Cronk's Hill, and the road entered leads northward to Chart Lane and Reigate parish church, and southward to Meadvale. Proceeding a few yards in the latter direction, we obtain a glance into the picturesque valley beneath, and at this place turn to the right near the Knowle (E. W. Stanton, Esq.) into a pathway leading past a larch plantation, through which another path branches off southward to Meadvale hamlet. Emerging into the open along the crest of the ridge, pleasing views are to be had towards the downs on one side and over the Weald district on the other. Arriving at a point where a fieldpath to the left proceeds to Woodhatch, and a flagstaff crowns an eminence in the grounds of Woodhatch Lodge (T. B. Haywood, Esq.), we cross Smoke Lane in its descent to the southern slope of Cockshut Hill; and, after surmounting a stile, follow the continuation of the pathway between the enclosed grounds and plantations of Woodhatch Lodge and Isbells (R. J. Dickins, Esq.), on the south

side, and those of the Woodlands (J. J. Brown, Esq.), on the opposite. Passing a pretty cottage, and subsequently the entrance lodge of Isbells, where our route curves northward, a charming vista of wooded highway and chalk range background is presented as we enter the London and Brighton old coach road on the crest of Cockshut Hill. In our descent we pass the entrance to Reigate Park, and the venerable trees of the Priory demesne, and proceed by Bell Street to the Market Place, where we



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, REIGATE.

direct our course eastward through Church Street by a route already described.

We pass the Croydon Road branching off in a northern direction between the finely-timbered grounds of Reigate Lodge and Great Doods, to Gatton and Merstham through Wray Common, and immediately afterwards reach Chart Lane on the opposite side, leading to the parish church of St. Mary Magdalene; and here we enter the Reigate Road, with the Grammar School occupying a position on our right adjacent to the highway. This

endowed establishment was founded in 1675 by subscriptions, augmented by bequests, and in 1862 it was re-organised, when the parochial charities of Robert Bishopp and Magdalene Cade were appropriated for its benefit. Two years later the Martin Exhibitions of the annual value of £30 were instituted, and in 1871 a master's residence, with school and class-rooms, were erected at an expenditure of about £3,000; a further class-room being added subsequently by Mr. Haskett in memory of his father. A splendid lecture hall and well-furnished laboratory were built in 1895 at a considerable outlay, and in the following year the internal arrangements and sanitation system were readjusted and remodelled in accordance with modern ideas and latest improvements. The new scheme, sanctioned by the Endowed Schools Commission in 1875, provides for thirteen foundation scholarships; and the school, now under the management of eighteen governors, has about seventy-five pupils, and derives an income of £340 yearly from its endowments. Adjoining the site of the Grammar School is that of the Meeting House of the Society of Friends, whose existence here dates from the time of George Fox. His journal relates the circumstances of a visit to Reigate in 1655, and records are preserved of meetings held in the town as early as 1669. The present building, erected in 1856, replaced the original edifice dating from 1688.

Proceeding westward, our route lies between the ornamental grounds and plantations of a succession of well-designed modern mansions and villa residences; one of the most considerable being distinguished as the Hatch. Some pretty suburban roads and avenues on our left join the Croydon Road in the direction of Wray Park and Common, and one southward conducts to High Trees. At Shaw's Corner we enter Hatchlands Road, and following it into Station Road pass St. Matthew's Church, and soon after regain our starting point at the Market Hall.

REIGATE AND REDHILL.

SECOND ROUTE.—From Reigate to Meadvale and South Park.

DISTANCE, $4\frac{1}{2}$ MILES.

FROM the White Hart Hotel in the Market Place, we proceed by Bell Street to the ascent of Cockshut Hill, and before attaining the summit keep to the left up an incline, where a notice board indicates a public footpath to Meadvale. We have the private grounds of Woodlands on our left, and at the abrupt curve of the pathway observe the lodge entrance to Isbells on the opposite side. We are thus reversing a portion of a route already described. After having passed through four swing-gates, in addition to surmounting a stile, whilst walking along the crest of the ridge, with extensive views on either side, we come to a young larch plantation, where the path divides, and our course lies to the right down the incline into the valley, in pursuing which we are afforded a pleasing prospect of a beautiful landscape. This footpath conducts us past a diminutive Baptist Chapel into the principal street of Meadvale by the unpretentious Post Office. Following the curves of the main road, we emerge on Earlswood Common close to some pretty cottages and opposite the embanked reservoirs or ponds, usually dignified by the appellation of lakes.

Turning westward along a pathway conterminous with the traffic highway, we pass Clarence Lodge and Meadvale House, and a little distance beyond the more imposing mansion of Kingsholme (Mrs. Conway), occupying an elevated situation amid very pretty surroundings. Hence, an agreeable walk of half a mile brings us to Woodhatch, one of the old Reigate manors, at present represented by an ancient inn and a few modern cottages.

Crossing here the London and Brighton road at the south base of Cockshut Hill, and with Woodhatch Place (Capt. Martin) to the right, we enter a charming

country road, with rich pasture lands on either side, and arriving at a point where a road leads south to Horley and another westward to Leigh, we pursue a northward curve of the highway, and pass some recently constructed parallel roads, extensions of the regularly planned modern village of South Park, which lies eastward.

St. Luke's, South Park, was constituted an ecclesiastical parish in 1871; and the church, erected at that time, is a handsome stone edifice in the Gothic style of architecture. It consists of a nave, aisles, chancel, porch, an organ chamber, and a vestry. The north aisle was added in 1884, and further extensions, with a tower and spire, are contemplated. At present accommodation is afforded for 400 persons, and all the sittings are free. The living, a vicarage with a gross yearly income of £156 and residence, is in the gift of the Bishop of Rochester, and held since 1897 by the Rev. Ernest Mort, M.A., Christ's Church College, Oxford.

Proceeding onward, the interesting old Whitehall farmhouse appears on the left, with St. Luke's Vicarage (Rev. E. Mort) nearly opposite, and immediately afterwards we follow the westward bend of the road, leaving South Park behind; and, again entering a pretty highway, wend our way past a picturesque cottage residence surrounded by flowers and shrubs, fruit gardens and orchard trees; and then direct our steps due north by a lane on the right, overshadowed by oaks, elms, and beeches growing on each bank. This conducts us past the pleasantly situated mansion of Sandfels (P. C. Mordan, Esq.) to a small gate at the western extremity of Reigate Park, by which we enter a path leading up the wooded slope of the ridge. The handsome gabled residence we perceive to the west of that mentioned is Fernside (Capt. J. C. Baxter). Having attained the summit of the elevation, we find ourselves on familiar ground, and can reach Cockshut Hill eastward over the crest of the ridge, and thence return to our starting point through Bell Street; or, if preferred, enter Reigate at the western termination of High Street by Park Lane.

THIRD ROUTE.—Reigate to Leigh and Reigate Heath.DISTANCE $7\frac{1}{2}$ MILES.

SELECTING the White Hart Hotel or Town Hall in the Market Place as our point of departure, we proceed to the western termination of High Street, and turning southward, in the direction of Park Lodge near the principal entrance to the Priory, follow the windings of Park Lane, here constituting the line of boundary of its beautiful grounds. Presently we pass the woodland slopes of Reigate Park, and, before reaching the pleasantly situated residence known as Fernside, turn into a field path leading down towards some cottages in the valley. Pretty views of the surrounding sylvan country are here obtained; and, after wending our way through the cottage gardens, the route lies over a fertile arable tract of country. This path, proceeding in a direct line for upwards of half a mile, conducts us into a typical Surrey highway, which connects Cockshut Hill, Woodhatch, and South Park with Leigh, and intersects a picturesque valley of rich pasture lands. Shortly after entering this road, another branches off to the left, winding in a south-easterly direction to Woodhatch and Doversgreen. Proceeding under the outstretched branches of a succession of fine old oaks, we soon reach Flanchford Place, the ancient seat of the Bludders, and at a more remote period of Hugh de Flenesford, the earliest recorded proprietor of the manor. Immediately opposite, a pleasant road, overshadowed by rows of tall trees on either side, leads to Reigate Heath and Betchworth.

When we arrive at a narrow bridge that spans the placid meandering Mole, the picturesque Flanchford water-mill is observed nestled amidst willows and orchard trees, and sheltered by an overspreading timber growth, and on the opposite side is seen the undulating park-like pasture lands of Little Flanchford Farm. Having crossed the river and gained the crest of a

gentle ascent, a singularly inviting meadow path is perceived proceeding southward by a row of giant oaks and elms. This leads close by Bury's Court, in the direction of Swain's Farm, and into the bridle way along the valley between it and Leigh Church. We pass the lodge entrance of Little Flanchford farmhouse, and nearly opposite that to the handsome country mansion of Bury's Court (Mrs. Charrington), with its beautiful woodland environment. Immediately beyond, at the entrance to Denshott (Capt. Charrington), a swing-gate admits to a public pathway, running parallel with the avenue, and past a pretty residence surrounded by exceptionally well-ordered lawns, over which are dispersed handsome flower beds, and various ornamental shrubs and trees. When we have passed over a foot-bridge, with the adjacent plantations of Bury's Court on our left, a private path in that direction leads up an incline to attractive farm buildings, placed amid a profusion of fruit-tree foliage, and under the shade of some ancient elms; but we continue our course in a direct line across a meadow, and, after surmounting a stile, follow close by a winding stream almost concealed by a dense underwood growth. Having attained higher and more open ground, the footway conducts us sometimes by hedgerows and then across fields, but in each case we obtain charming views of sylvan scenery, with the elevated wooded terraces in front, crowned by the large modern Elizabethan mansion of Mynthurst (W. D. Freshfield, Esq.), and eastward the more level parklands, where Bury's Court occupies a fine situation. If we have already traversed a typical Surrey highway, we are now enjoying a walk by a truly representative field-path. Our further advance is made in an approximately direct course, when we perceive the spire of Leigh Church after having travelled about half a mile by this rural way, and presently enter the churchyard by a swing gate.

The church of St. Bartholomew the Great at Leigh is a handsome stone edifice in the Perpendicular style, restored and lengthened with a new tower in 1890, by Mrs. Charrington, of Bury's Court. It consists of a

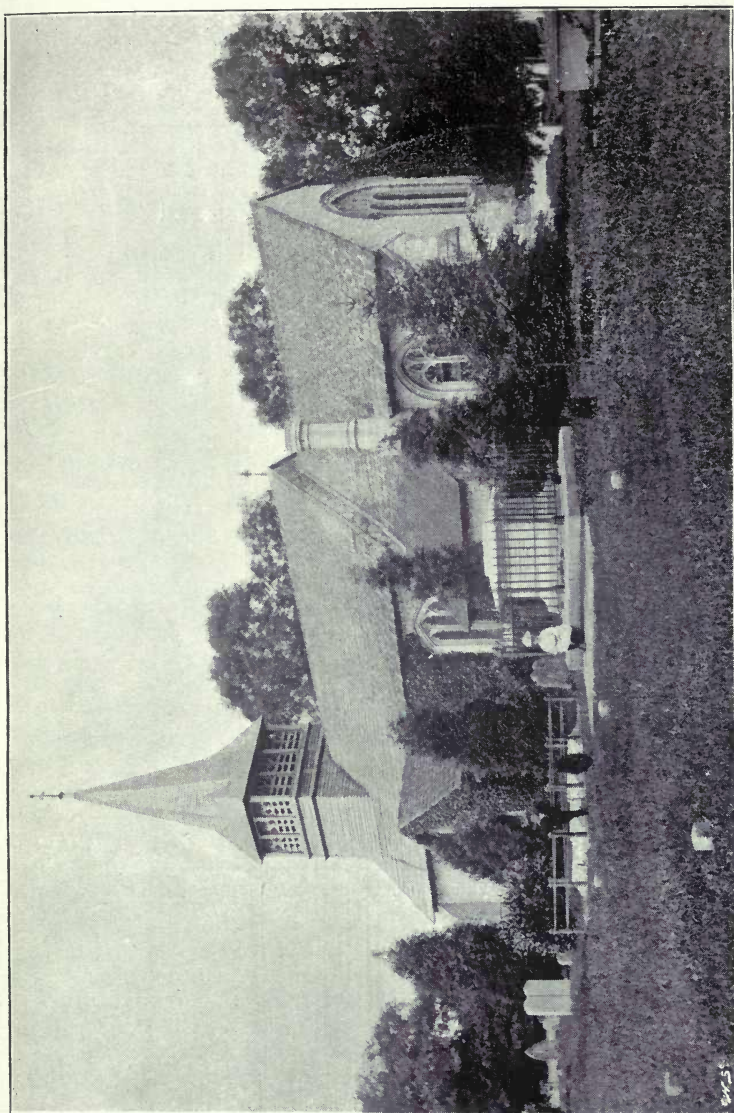


Photo by

LEIGH CHURCH.

[Flint, Redhill.]

chancel, nave, south and west porches, and a western tower, with a spire, containing six bells. Within the altar rails is a stone slab with very fine brasses of John and Elizabeth Arderne (1440), formerly of Leigh Place; and a corresponding slab on the south side to the memory of Richard Arderne and his wife Joan (1499) retains the inscriptions, but the effigies are gone. In the centre of the chancel floor a small brass is inserted in commemoration of Susanna, daughter of the first named. The church has some beautiful stained glass windows, of which the eastern one was given by Mrs. J. Watney, and three others by W. D. Freshfield, Esq.; and its register dates from 1579. Leigh is a small but exceedingly pretty village, occupying a pleasant site in a picturesque rural district.

Leigh Place, the ancient residence of the great Norman family of Braose, and subsequently the abode of the Ardernes, is now a farmhouse, and may be easily reached from the church. The house is of considerable antiquity, but somewhat transformed by later alterations and additions, and its old walls and massive chimney buttresses, once covered with ivy, now bear testimony to a liberal application of lime solution. The moat remains in a perfect condition, and the original drawbridge was in existence during the early years of the present century. Some gigantic oaks in adjoining meadows are prominent features of its environment. Mr. Dendy, a recent proprietor, compiled a brief statement of the early possessors of the estate, from which we make an extract:—"The first inhabitants of this place which I can trace were the great family of Brewse, or Brewose, who followed the fortunes of the Conqueror from Normandy in 1066. They were possessed of many lordships in Surrey, and of forty-two manors in Sussex. Jno. de Brewse, having escaped from the tyrant King John, who starved two of his brothers to death in Windsor Castle, married a daughter of Lewellyan, Prince of Wales, and died in 1232. Lord William, his son, was of Findon in Sussex. Sir Peter de Brewse, third son of this William, had a younger son, Sir John, who resided here. The next who succeeded was Sir George, his son, who died in 1419."

It appears that about 1420 the estate was acquired by John de Arderne, who became sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1432, and whose son rose to some distinction as a friend of Henry VII. and an officer of his household.

We leave the village by the Betchworth road, proceeding northward, which affords a pleasing view of the old gabled manor-house in an easterly wooded depression. At the point where a continuation of the road previously traversed unites with our present line of route, the highway trends westward to Dawesgreen; and here again, close by an inn, we direct our course in a northern direction towards Betchworth, as indicated by a convenient guide post. After walking upwards of a mile from Leigh, along a pleasant country road with good views of the chalk range elevated above the woodland growth in front, we pass the antiquated farmhouse of Little Abbots, and at the northern hedgerow of an adjoining field enter a footpath, over a stile, which conducts us eastward through charmingly dispersed plantations, abounding with a varied assortment of wild flowers. Emerging on open fields, and following the almost direct course of the route here marked out, we cross the Mole by a narrow bridge, and enter a bridle-road known as Ricebridge Lane, and bordered by a rich growth of vegetation. This conducts us past Ricebridge farmhouse, and directly afterwards leads into a highway at a point where a fieldpath is observed opposite, proceeding in the direction of a windmill that occupies an elevated position northward. As we traverse the upward incline of this pathway, pretty views are afforded to the south and west, and at a short distance beyond the crest a field gate opens on the road connecting Flanchford Place with Betchworth. We here ascend the steep gradient of Trumpet's Hill by a highway branching to the left, and gain the summit of a ridge which commands an excellent prospect westward, with Leith Hill a prominent central feature.

At a position immediately opposite the windmill that crowns the neighbouring eminence, a path is entered by a stile on the right bank of the road, which leads by the park-land plantations of Heathfield (St Barbe Sladen,

Esq.), to the south-western termination of Reigate Heath, where the golf club-house is seen in close proximity to a second windmill, now utilised as a chapel. From this favourable point of observation fine views are obtained of the chalk downs and Gatton Park rising beyond the urban confines of Reigate. Directing our course across the golf ground, with the elevated woods of Gatton Park in front as a guiding landmark, we enter the Dorking road at the eastern extremity of the Heath; and, proceeding through West Street, enter High Street, and eventually reach the White Hart Hotel.

FOURTH ROUTE.—Reigate to Suspension Bridge, Reigate Hill, Pilgrims' Way, Lower Kingswood, and Colley Hill.

DISTANCE, $6\frac{3}{4}$ MILES.

COMMENCING our walk at the Town Hall and Market Place, we proceed due north by the London road, and, passing over the level crossing near the South-Eastern Railway station, leave St. Mark's Church on the right, and enter a picturesque suburban highway, bordered by the pretty gardens and shrubberies of the many handsome residential villas and mansions that line our route on either side. As we emerge into more rural surroundings, by following Reigate Hill Road in the direction of the Chalk Downs, the gradient of ascent becomes more noticeable, and the private grounds attached to more pretentious dwellings are of increased extent and variety. We resist the attractive charms of pleasant roads branching to our right and left, and, passing a few cottages and an inn at an eastern curve of the road, are confronted by an enormous chalk excavation, which considerably detracts from the inherent beauties of the scene now presented. Ascending a more steep incline in an easterly direction, we observe a path leading up the escarpment of the ridge to the summit of Reigate Hill; and, duly arriving at the Suspension Bridge, perceive that chalk workings on varied scales abound in all directions. Here a magnificent view of wide extent

and singular charm is afforded over Redhill and Reigate in the picturesque valley beneath and the greensand ridge beyond, far away into the Weald of Kent and Sussex and the distant uplands constituting its southern frontiers.

Surmounting the Suspension Bridge and proceeding westward through a country lane, in the line of the old Pilgrims' Way, on the crest of the chalk range which is here reached, we direct our course by a pathway across the beech wood, with the recently constructed military fort to the right, and presently emerge on the beautiful soft turf covering the elevated brow of Reigate Hill. The splendour and varied aspects of the extensive view now suddenly unfolded have already been described, in the eloquent language of an able writer, in the chapter relating to geological features. This fine landscape scene comprises the greater part of the counties of Surrey and Sussex, from the borders of Hampshire far into the Weald of Kent. The distant outlines of the South Downs are clearly defined, and the clump of trees in Chanctonbury Ring, near Worthing, is specially conspicuous. Leith Hill, forming the projecting termination of a westward ridge, stands prominently out, and beyond the bare heights of Hindhead appear. To the east Tilburstow Hill, near Godstone, and Crowborough Beacon, the culminating point of the Sussex forest ridge, constitute the leading landmarks. In the pleasant wooded valley beneath lies the town of Reigate, with the beautiful Priory demesne forming its southern confines.

Retracing our steps to the Suspension Bridge, we regain the London road by a pathway northward down the embankment, and immediately turn to the right, following the highway, indicated by a direction-post as leading to Lower Gatton, into the depression eastward, with Gatton Park on one side, and the undulating chalk-land pastures, interspersed with woods and plantations, on the opposite. The route we now traverse coincides with the ancient Pilgrims' Way, already described in our opening chapter. A pleasant walk of three-quarters of a mile brings us to a lodge entrance to Gatton Park, beyond which a handsome edifice, known as The Tower,

and occupied by the rector of Gatton (Rev. A. G. Rogers, M.A.), is imposingly situated on a densely wooded elevation. Here we turn due north by a road leading over the chalk ridge, and backward glances disclose pretty views of the Park, the villages of Nutfield and Bletchingley, and of Tilburstow Hill. Shortly after surmounting the crest of the hill we pass the fine old farmhouse of Crossways and an intersecting road, and here gain an



Photo by]

SUSPENSION BRIDGE, REIGATE HILL.

[Flint, Redhill.

open, level country, comprising rich pasturage and well-cultivated land. The invigorating atmosphere renders exercise enjoyable, and after proceeding about three-quarters of a mile further, we cross the London and Brighton main road obliquely at a point south of Lower Kingswood village, where some comfortable country houses are situated, and enter a more rural highway, leading to Betchworth and Dorking.

The church of Lower Kingswood may be reached by the London road, or approached from the point arrived at in our route where a few cottages and an inn, sur-

rounded by a varied assemblage of fruit trees, constitute an outlying portion of the dispersed village. This church, or chapel-of-ease, erected in 1892 by H. C. O. Bonsor, Esq., M.P., and E. Freshfield, Esq., and built of Ham Hill stone in the Romanesque style, consists of a chancel, nave, aisles, and baptistery; and has a detached oak bell-tower on a base of Ham stone. The pulpit, reading-desk, and lectern are made of ebony, inlaid with



Photo by]

SYLVAN VIEW ON THE MEDWAY.

[T. A. Flemons.

mother-of-pearl; the font, given by Mrs. Bonsor, is composed of alabaster; and the walls and floor of the chancel are of fine marbles.

The church of Upper Kingswood, with the woods of the Warren (H. C. O. Bonsor, Esq., M.P.) on one side, and Banstead Downs on the other, forms a prominent landmark northward from the position above indicated, and here we turn into a bridle-road leading in a southern direction to Margery Wood. Altering our course slightly to the left to avoid entering the plantations which now adjoin the pretty, secluded lane entered, we are afforded pleasing

views of picturesque scenery. This woodland route terminates on Colley Hill, where the Chalk Downs attain an elevation of upwards of 700 feet, and which is connected with Reigate Hill by a path eastward through the intervening beech wood. The expansive landscape view here presented coincides approximately with that obtained from the neighbouring height, but the greater diversity of hill and dale, wooded upland and sylvan valley, opened out westward, materially adds to the beauty and considerably enhances the charm of the scene.

Should we be induced to extend our walk along the crest of the ridge, following the route of the pilgrims in olden time, it will be advisable on the present occasion to retrace our steps hither, so as to avail ourselves of the pathway into the valley by the eastern margin of the extensive chalk excavation beneath our position. Directing our course thence due south down a somewhat steep declivity, forming the lower elevation of the ridge, we proceed across a field, and enter a singularly pleasant, grass-grown lane, bordered by an irregular but profuse hedge growth and rows of overspreading trees, and locally designated the Pilgrims' Way. This conducts us to the western extremity of Somers Road, by which we regain the London road, near the railway station, and, finally, reaching the central point from which we set out, terminate a charming rambling expedition.

FIFTH ROUTE.—Reigate to Colley Hill, Walton Heath, Pebblecombe Valley, Betchworth, and Buckland.

DISTANCE 10 MILES.

STARTING from our usual point in the Market Place, we proceed westward by High Street and its continuation in West Street, and immediately after passing Duncroft Lodge (W. Finch, Esq.) and the more pretentious Wallfield House (T. Hughes, Esq.), situated opposite in extensive grounds, at a point where a group of fine old oaks overspreads the highway, we turn northward by a field path, entered by a gate, and leading up a gentle

incline. As higher ground is attained, choice landscape views are had to the south, with the elevated ridge of Reigate Park and its picturesque surroundings in the central foreground. When Colley Manor House (A. G. Ashby, Esq.) is reached, a pleasant lane is entered, which passes over a railway bridge, and thence proceeding by neighbouring plantations and the handsome modern residence of Broadlees (W. Marshall, Esq.), conducts us to the foot of the Chalk Downs in the vicinity of some disused workings. The ascent of the steep escarpment of the ridge here is made by a choice of pathways leading to the summit. Having attained this, we direct our course westward along the crest of Colley Hill, and are afforded grand views over a wide expanse of charming landscape scenery into the far-distant south and west.

When we arrive at the yew-tree plantation, which indicates the locality of the pilgrims' route of olden time, the footway curves northward over a rounded eminence, and we reach the open common by a short bridle-way to the left, at the south-western extremity of Margery Wood. Thence we proceed in a direct line by the central turf ride across Walton Heath, with the spire of Headley Church as a prominent guiding landmark, and the irregular meanderings of the woodland boundaries contiguous on the south. Our immediate environment consists of dense gorse and hawthorn growths interspersed, and as we travel westward heather abounds on all sides, and extends to the north over the broad surface of Banstead Heath, with Upper Kingswood Church and the adjacent plantations of Kingswood Warren (H. C. O. Bonsor, Esq., M.P.) on its eastern confines, and the church of Walton-on-the-Hill conspicuous on the western elevated borders.

Close by the lodge entrance to the Hermitage (H. Bostock, Esq.), we pass a group of tall firs, and directly afterwards reach Walton Oaks (J. W. Benson, Esq.), an old country mansion pleasantly environed by ornamental shrubberies and finely timbered pasture lands. Here we enter the public highway, and pursue its course southward, having the wooded grass lands of Frith Park (W. Stebbing, Esq.) on our right. Arriving at Pebble Combe (W. H. Tanqueray, Esq.), where a road branches

off to Betchworth Clump and Box Hill, we proceed by an exceedingly steep descent into the valley, extending southward from the elevated site of the mansion, and enclosed on either side by the undulating slopes of projecting chalk ridges, whose summits display a rich and varied plantation growth.

At a point of our route beyond where a few dispersed cottages appear, a pathway up a steep incline to the right leads to Betchworth Clump, distinguished by a group of lofty beech trees. Having attained the summit, a panoramic succession of magnificent landscape scenes lies before us. The noble prospect commanded to the north, extending to the Berkshire hills, embraces views of Windsor Castle and the Crystal Palace, and that southward over the Weald country, with the forest ridge a leading feature, brings within range of our vision a clearly defined profile line of the South Down range near Shoreham.

Regaining the highway, we follow its course by some extensive chalk works, and over a level crossing at the Betchworth railway station, after which a pleasant, tree-shaded road is entered, having on one side the matured plantations of Broome Park, formerly the seat of Sir B. Brodie, Bart., and now that of Gen. the Hon. Sir P. R. B. Fielding, and on the other hand several pretty residences amid choice surroundings. This highway joins the main road from Reigate to Dorking at the south-western extremity of Broome Park, and here we turn to the right close by Morden Grange (H. Mott, Esq.). When the termination of the picturesque grounds of this singularly attractive mansion is reached opposite the Vicarage (the Rev. C. E. Sanders), a field path southward conducts us past the Old House (Lord Gifford, V.C.) to Betchworth Church and village, and on the way affords pleasant country views, with Brockham Church spire rising in distinct outline from a western sylvan depression.

Betchworth Church, dedicated to St. Michael, contains some interesting portions appertaining to Norman, Early English, and Perpendicular periods; but during the restorations of 1850 and succeeding years the edifice was

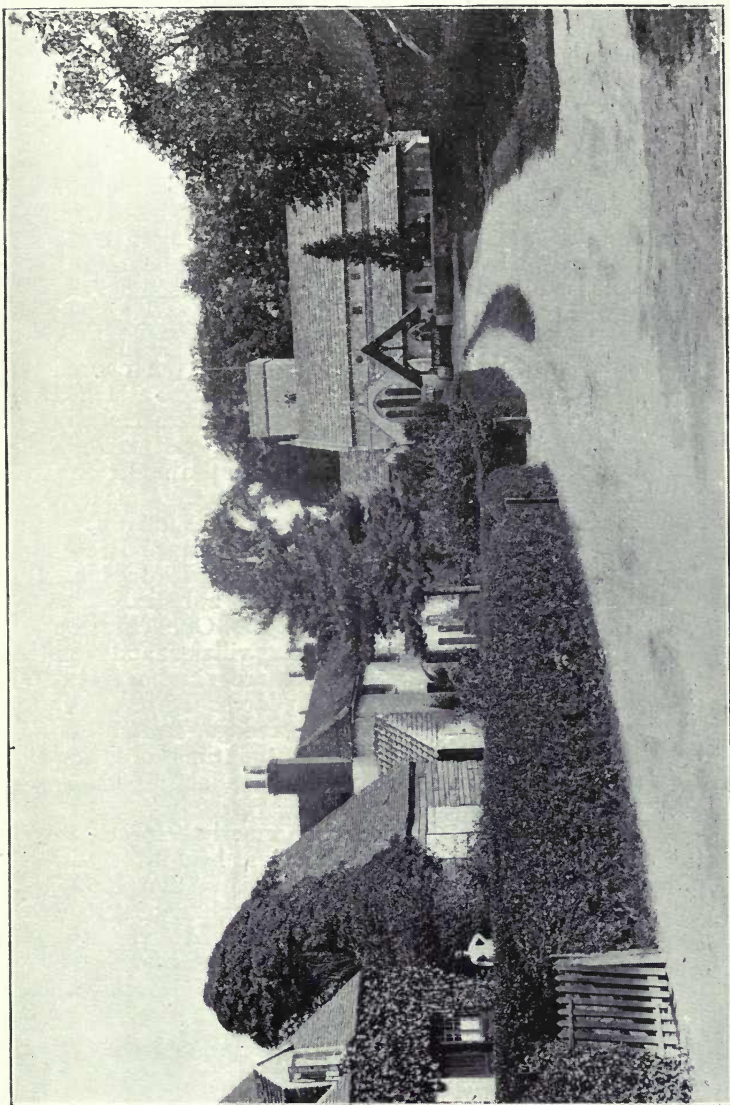


Photo by]

BETCHWORTH CHURCH AND VILLAGE.

[Flint Redhill.

considerably renovated, and its ancient character much interfered with. At that time the tower was transferred from its original position above the intersection of the nave and chancel to the present site. The church is a handsome stone structure, presenting a pleasing external and internal appearance, and consists of a nave, aisles, a chancel with aisle, south and west porches, and a south-eastern tower containing a clock and six bells. In the south chancel may be seen a capacious iron-bound chest hewn out of the trunk of an ancient oak tree, possessing vast dimensions. A beautiful pulpit of marble and mosaic, the gift of Joseph Maynard, Esq., was erected in 1885. All the church windows are of stained glass, and a fine brass attached to the chancel north wall, dated 1533, commemorates William Wardysworth, a former vicar of the parish.

Betchworth is a picturesque village in the midst of a rich and finely diversified sylvan environment. A modern version of its Domesday record would read as follows:—

“Richard [de Tonbridge] holds in demesne Becesworde, which Cola [Nicholas?] held of King Edward. It was then assessed at 6 hides, now at 2 hides. The arable land amounts to 7 carucates. One carucate is in demesne; and there are six villains and ten bordars, with 3 carucates. There are six bondmen, and a mill at 10 shillings, and 3 acres of meadow. The wood yields eighty swine for pannage, and six for herbage. There is a church. In the time of King Edward and afterwards, it was valued at 9 pounds, and now at 8 pounds.”

The manor of East Betchworth formerly belonged to the Earls of Warren and Surrey, and was held by service of the manor of Reigate. In 1347 it was in the possession of the Earl of Arundel, and was purchased in 1632 by George Ralph Freeman, Esq., who erected the present manor-house known as Betchworth Place. Subsequently it became the seat of the Bouveries for a lengthened period, and from them the estate passed in 1817 to the Rt. Hon. Henry Goulburn, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Major Henry Goulburn, a descendant of this gentleman, is now owner and lord of the manor.

Directly opposite Betchworth Place a road branches westward, close by the commodious and comfortable village inn. As we pursue this exceedingly pleasant route in the near vicinity of the placid, winding Mole, and under the widely extended branches of a succession of gigantic oaks and elms, the fine mansion of Hartsfield (H. Highford, Esq.) and the adjoining choice country residence distinguished as Sandhills (G. F. Malcolmson, Esq.) are perceived to the left on commanding positions, surrounded by beautifully wooded park lands. A highway, embowered by rows of lofty trees on either side, proceeds northward to unite with the direct Reigate and Dorking road, and immediately afterwards we reach the venerable manor-house of More Place (J. R. Corbett, Esq.). This interesting edifice, dating probably from the time of Henry VI., is the oldest example of domestic architecture in the neighbourhood; but it has been considerably modernised by recent restorations. A short distance beyond, and also on the banks of the Mole, is Wonham Manor (Hon. Mrs. Way), the picturesque seat of the late eminent antiquary Mr. Albert Way. In olden time the demesne belonged to the De Wonhams, and at a comparatively recent date to the Earl of Romney.

Nearly opposite the park entrance of Wonham Manor a path, through a plantation of noble beeches, leads up an incline to the left, and when we gain an eminence to the east of Sandhills, the near and distant landscape views presented are picturesque in the highest degree. Passing through two swing-gates in quick succession, we keep the footway to our right, and by a third gate enter a direct field path, which conducts us to the public highway by the entrance gates to Buckland Lodge (A. J. Keen, Esq.), opposite the garden walls of Buckland Court (F. A. Beaumont, Esq.).

Buckland Church, in a pleasant situation, amid a close assemblage of trees, and adjoining the village green, is soon reached from the point indicated. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, was almost entirely rebuilt in 1860 with native ironstone in the Decorated style, and consists of a nave, chancel, south porch, and a small western tower containing six bells. The interior is richly ornamented

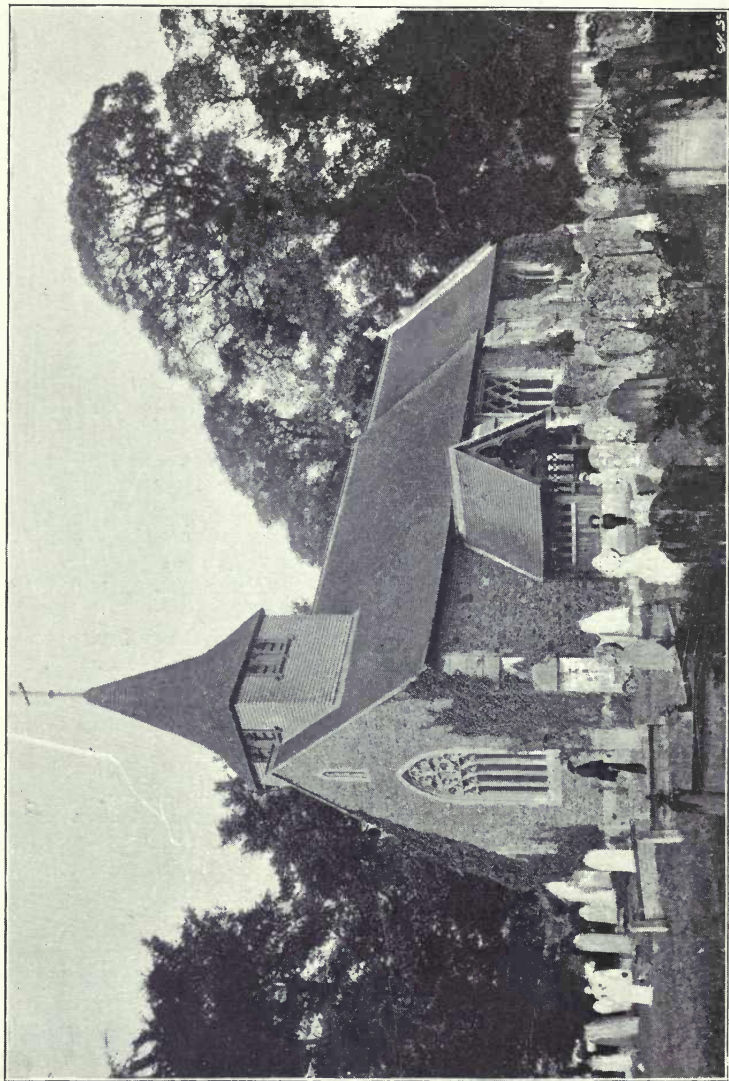


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BUCKLAND CHURCH.

[Flint, Redhill.

with excellent taste, and all the windows are of stained glass by Hardman ; but some fragments of old painted glass have been carefully preserved. The earliest records in the parish register date from 1560.

The reference to Buckland in the Domesday Book is in the following terms:—

“John holds of Richard [de Tonbridge] Bochelant, which Alnoth held of King Edward. It was then assessed at 5 hides, now at 2 hides. The arable land is . . . One carucate and a half are in the demesne, and there are 17 villains and 8 bordars, with 10 carucates. There is a church, and there are 10 bondmen, and one mill at 6 shillings. In the time of King Edward and afterwards, it was valued at 100 shillings, now at 8 pounds.”

The manor of Buckland was held in 1291 of Guido de Terre, and subsequently came into the possession of the Earls of Warren and Surrey, from whom it descended to the Earls of Arundel. After sundry changes of ownership, it was acquired in 1733 by Thomas Jordan, Esq., of Gatwick, and soon afterwards by the Beaumont family.

Hence our homeward route to Reigate at first adjoins the park pastures and woodlands of Beaumont Court, and then proceeds through a pleasant rural district, affording many contrasts of pretty scenery. Reigate Heath is approached at a point where some mounds, covered by groups of fir trees, represent Saxon tumuli. Beads, ashes, and other traces of ancient sepulture were disclosed when these trees were planted. Passing Colley Manor (F. W. Campion, Esq.) and Colley Lodge (W. H. Nash, Esq.), in near proximity to the Common, we enter West Street, continue through High Street, and terminate a most pleasant and interesting walk at the White Hart Hotel in the Market Place.

Ever charming, ever new!
 When will the Landscape tire the view.
 The fountains' fall, the rivers' flow ;
 The woody valleys warm and low ;
 The pleasant seats, the tall church towers,
 The white chalk cliff, the shady bowers ;
 The town and village, grove and farm,
 Each gives to each a double charm,
 As pearls upon an Æthiop's arm !—*Dyer.*

CHAPTER X.

A WALK FROM REDHILL TO NUTFIELD, BLETCHINGLEY, TILBURSTOW HILL, GODSTONE, AND PENDELL COURT.

DISTANCE II MILES.

PROCEEDING from Redhill Market Hall by Station Road, and under the railway arch, we leave St. Anne's Royal Asylum and the adjacent Technical Institute on our left, and passing Laker's Railway Hotel, situated nearly opposite, commence the ascent of Redstone Hill, having the elevated woodland pastures of Redstone Manor (Miss Webb) on one side, and the pleasant park grounds of Oakwood (V. Nicholls, Esq.) on the other. Before reaching the former a lane to the right leads to Earlswood; and as we attain the crest of the ridge admirable views are obtained of Gatton Park and the neighbouring district, and a little further on glimpses are to be had of the Weald scenery southward through the plantations of old elms and beeches which now obstruct the range of our vision.

Pattison Court (T. Nicholls, Esq.), with its beautifully arranged and well-planted grounds, is soon after passed; and immediately beyond, where an intersecting road leads in a northern direction to Merstham and southward to Outwood, we arrive at the lodge entrance to the imposing mansion of Nutfield Priory (Mrs. Fielden), with a conspicuous tower, occupying a fine commanding position in the midst of extensive and richly wooded park lands. The highway here assumes a more decidedly rural appearance, a more open landscape scene unfolds, and various points command pleasing prospects over the northern valley to the Downs range. Before entering

the village of Nutfield, we pass Holmesdale House (C. Maw, Esq.), and at its further extremity, opposite Cape Nor (J. Hudson, Esq.), a road to the left conducts us to the church, which occupies an elevated, picturesque situation, environed by a varied assemblage of fine old trees.

The manor of Nutfield formerly held a court-leet and a court-baron, and the parish also includes the reputed manors of Wolborough and Hadresham. Its record in Domesday Book may be rendered as follows:—

“The Countess of Bononia [Boulogne] holds of the King Notfelle, which Ulwi held of King Edward. It was then assessed at $13\frac{1}{2}$ hides, now at 3 hides. The arable land amounts to 12 carucates. There are 3 carucates in demesne, and twenty-five villains, and ten bordars, with 13 carucates. There is a church, and ten bondmen, and a mill at 2 shillings, and 10 acres of meadow. It yields 12 swine for herbage. In the time of King Edward it was valued at 13 pounds, afterwards at 10 pounds, now at 15 pounds, of 20 to the ora.”

The church, dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, consists of a nave, aisles, chancel, southern transept, a south porch, and a western embattled tower, with a short octagonal shingled spire, containing a clock and six bells. The low, square tower is of Perpendicular date, and on one of its buttresses are incised the names William Gawton, of London, Thomas Bristow, Henry, William, and John Best, with the date of 1594. The north aisle is also in the Perpendicular style, but the remainder of the building belongs to the Decorated period. In the chancel, under a canopy of the latter date, is a slab having an almost obliterated Norman-French inscription in Lombardic characters, which reads as follows: “Sire Thomas de Roldham gist ici; Deu de sa alme eyt merci.” The handsome reredos, of elaborately carved oak, has a groined projecting canopy, supported in front by detached and pinnacled buttresses, enriched with crocketed niches containing figures of the apostles. The panelled oak pulpit, of the later Tudor period, is finely relieved with flowing designs and foliage, and the

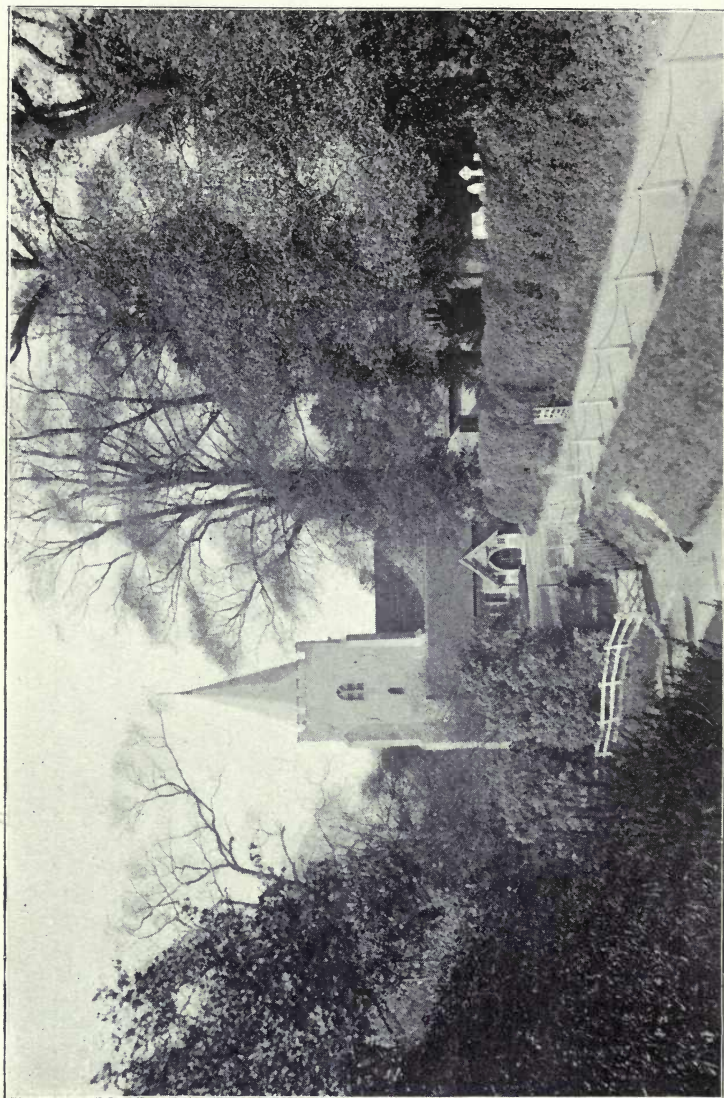


Photo by]

NUTFIELD CHURCH.

[Print, Radhill.

octagonal font has the sides of the basin panelled in quatrefoils. A beautiful Perpendicular screen of carved oak, with elegant open tracery and cresting, divides the nave and chancel. The fine east window, erected in 1892 to the memory of Mrs. Edward Guy, was designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Bart.; and of the four other stained glass windows that inserted in the south aisle transept, as a memorial to Mary French in 1891, deserves particular attention. A few fragments of ancient painted glass are retained in a window of the north aisle.

Brasses of somewhat interesting character, inserted in a modern slab, and recently placed in the south wall of the chancel, have an inscription to William Grayston and Joan his wife, and probably date from the middle of the fifteenth century. The former, who apparently had been a priest, is represented in layman's costume. In the south transept, beneath a stained window, is a brass commemorative of Lady Powerscourt, with date of 1780, and adjacent is a handsome brass, with a coronet and crest, to Viscountess Canterbury and her daughter Marguerite, bearing the more recent date of 1845. Over one of the two recesses in this transept a seventeenth-century brass contains an inscription to Edward Molyneux. In the south side of the chancel is a piscina with shelf, and an aumbry in its north wall has a door formed by a modern brass. The church was restored and enlarged in 1882 at a cost of £3,400, and its register dates from 1558.

A pathway from the church eastward conducts us into the avenue of Nutfield Court (J. T. Charlesworth, Esq.), a handsome modern mansion on the estate which formerly belonged to the Evelyn family. Here an abundance of varied rhododendron bloom presents a rich display, and verdant lawns with rising terraced banks, over which are dispersed numerous fine conifers, surround the house, which is well sheltered by a picturesque environment of ancient tree growth, among which some grand specimens of lofty elms appear conspicuous. The route thence is continued by a field path, entered by a swing-gate, where the shrubberies terminate, and from the position now

attained pleasing views are had of the sylvan valley scenery, extending from Merstham eastward to the Kent districts. The footpath divides into two branches in the next field, and we keep to the right, proceeding in front of a choicely situated country rectory, through undulating parkland pastures, with the landscape prospects northward continually varying in beauty and charm.

We regain the main road between Nutfield and Bletchingley at an elevated point amid pretty surroundings, where a highway proceeds north to Brewer Street, White Hill and Caterham, as we are informed by a convenient direction post. Traversing the eastern principal route, we soon reach Castle Hill (H. Partridge, Esq.), the site of the former castle of Bletchingley. Gilbert de Clare held this castle for the barons in 1263, when it was captured and nearly demolished by the royal forces. Soon afterwards it was rebuilt, but appears to have never attained any importance, although mention is made of Bletchingley Castle as containing arms and munitions of war in the reign of Queen Mary. Aubrey, writing in 1673, says: "This Castle (with great Graffs) is in a cop-pice and was heretofore a stately fabrick, and pleasantly situated, but shows only now one piece of wall of five foot thick." Bletchingley House (R. W. Drew, Esq.), a modern edifice, is situated on adjoining property, and in closer proximity to the village.

Bletchingley consists of a long, broad, uneven street, composed chiefly of old houses, and still retains many features of antiquity. The description of the manor in Domesday record reads thus:—

"Richard [de Tonbridge] himself holds Blachingelei. Ælfech and Alwin, and Elnoth held it of King Edward, when it was assessed at 10 hides; now at 3 hides. The arable land amounts to 16 carucates. The three manors are now united in one. Three carucates are in demesne; and twenty villains, and four bordars, with 9 carucates. There are seven bondmen; and 14 acres of meadow. The wood yields forty swine for pannage; and eighteen swine for herbage. In London and Southwark are seven mansions, at 5 shillings and 4 pence. Of these ten hides Odin holds 2 and a half, Lemei 2 hides, and Peter 1 and

a half. There is one caracute in demesne; and three villains, and two bordars with 1 caracute, and 3 acres of meadow. The whole manor in the time of King Edward was valued at 13 pounds, and afterwards at 8 pounds; now that which Richard holds is valued at 12 pounds; and the land held by his men at 73 shillings and 4 pence."

The manor of Bletchingley was granted by the Conqueror to the Clares, Lords of Tonbridge, and Earls of Gloucester, and in process of time descended to three sisters, one of whom, Margaret de Clare, married Piers Gaveston, favourite of Edward II. It afterwards came into the possession of the Staffords, Dukes of Buckingham, one of whom was beheaded in 1521 by order of Henry VIII., and the estate was conveyed to Sir Nicholas Carew, who shared the fate of his predecessor in 1539, when the manor was settled by Henry on Anne of Cleves. Having been held by the Howard family and others, it was purchased in 1677 by Sir Robert Clayton, a London alderman, and frequent changes of ownership occurred in later times.

As a Parliamentary borough, its first representatives, Richard de Bodekesham and John de Gayhesham, were returned during the reign of Edward I. in 1294. The number of electors, said to have been originally about 130, gradually dwindled down to ten or twelve, when Lord Palmerston and Mr. Hyde Villiers were members for the constituency, previous to its disfranchisement by the Reform Bill of 1832.

Bletchingley Church, dedicated to St. Mary, presents a somewhat quaint but interesting external appearance, with its low massive tower and embattled stuccoed walls. It consists of a nave, aisles, a chancel with south aisle, transept, south porch, and an embattled western tower, containing a clock and eight bells. The south chancel aisle is known as the Clayton chapel, and the north transept is usually designated the Ham chapel. The lower portion of the tower is Norman, and the chancel exhibits Early English features, but the chief part of the edifice belongs to the Perpendicular period. The tower was formerly surmounted by a timber spire 160 feet high,

and the parish register records that "the Stepell was burned the xvii. day of November, 1606"; but a contemporary account of its destruction more explicitly relates that the lightning "did in a very short Time burn up the Spire Steeple of Blechingley in Surry, at the same time melt into infinite Fragments a goodly Ring of Bells."

In 1864 the church was partially restored, when a new north aisle and an east window were added, and further



Photo by]

BLECHINGLEY CHURCH.

[Flint, Redhill

improvements were effected in 1872. Several memorial windows were inserted at this time, and a well-designed reredos by Pearson has been erected. The Clayton chapel has an interesting piscina, and over the porch is a parvise chamber, which appears to have been entered by an external staircase.

The most conspicuous of the many monuments in the church is the elaborate one in the chancel chapel erected to Sir Robert Clayton, of Marden, and his lady. Sir Robert, the Ishban of "glorious" John Dryden's

creation, is here represented under a canopy, with Lady Clayton, in his robes as lord mayor of London. He was born in 1629, and his death occurred in 1707, but the memorial was prepared during his lifetime. Between the sanctuary and the Clayton chapel is a sculptured altar tomb, which was formerly under a canopy, with a modern inscription commemorative of Sir Thomas Cawarden, who had been "bowbender" to Henry VIII. and lord of the manor of Bletchingley, and who died in 1559.

A good brass within the altar rails, without inscription, represents an ecclesiastic in full clerical vestments, and a very fine brass in the transept chapel memorialises Thomas Warde, who died in 1541, and his wife Jane. The south aisle contains a brass, with inscription missing, to a lady (*c.* 1470); and adjacent to this is a more modern slab, in which brasses representing three groups of children and two shields have been inserted. Of the several stained glass windows in the church, especial mention must be made of that in the south aisle, erected in 1880 to the memory of Miss Clara Kendrick, daughter of a former incumbent, in which exquisite design and most delicate colouring are very happily united.

The popular tradition that Bletchingley was formerly a considerable town and possessed seven churches is not supported by any existing records, and is opposed to the evidence of external appearances. The earliest entry in the parish register occurs under date of 1538, and is preceded by the following interesting statement:—

"This is the bowke or Regystre of the parishe church of Blechyngligh in the Cowntie of Surrey in the dyocesse off Wynchestr for the Regystreng off all such names as shall be chrystyned, buried, and wedded, within the said paryshe according to the commandement and injunctyons off our most noble and excellent prynce Henry by the grace of God Kyng of England and Frawnce defendour of the faythe, lord of Irelande, and in Erthe suvraine hed under Cryste of the Church of Englande Exibyt to us the XXV. daye of Octobre in the XXX. yere off the raegne off our said soveraigne by Gryffin Leyson Comysioner under Thomas lorde

Crumwell lorde privie seall vycegerent to the King's said hignes for all the Jurysdictions Ecclesiasticall within this Realme."

Resuming our walk we reach, immediately beyond the village, some cottages occupying an exposed position on rising ground, and here follow the road to the right, indicated by a guide-post as leading to Tilburstow Hill. The meandering highway entered conducts us through pleasant rural surroundings, affording constant change of scene; and our route passes through a dense plantation growth for some distance before emerging on the main road, which proceeds from Godstone southward over Tilburstow Hill. Pursuing this up the incline to the right for about a hundred yards, we attain the crest of the ridge; and surmounting the elevated eastern bank of the highway, close to where a fault in the greensand strata reveals some interesting geological features, we are afforded a magnificent panoramic view of striking character over the Weald country southward into the dim remote distances, and northward over the wooded valley landscapes to the clearly defined contour of the chalk range boundary.

Beneath our position, in the valley to the south, is Tilburstow Lodge (E. B. Forbes, Esq.), and more to the west, Underhills (H. A. Barclay, Esq.), and from this point of observation a path proceeds northward over the common in the direction of Godstone Church. We gain the main thoroughfare thus in the vicinity of several detached cottages placed in a depression, and crossing it in an oblique line, immediately pass over a small bridge, and enter a singularly pretty lane, bordered by a varied assortment of rich vegetation, and embowered by a succession of overspreading trees. This conducts us past the plantations, pasture lands, and orchards of Leigh Place (Mrs. Brooksbanks), a former seat of the Evelyns, and the Vicarage (Rev. J. S. Hoare), to the church, beautifully situated on an elevated position removed from the village among picturesque sylvan surroundings.

Godstone Church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a handsome stone edifice, with some portions dating from the Early English period; and the west doorway, in Norman

style, preserves fragmentary remains of the original stonework. It consists of a nave, aisles, chancel with chapels, a porch, and a southern tower, surmounted by an octagonal shingled spire, containing six bells. The south aisle was built in 1824, and the church was restored in 1839, and again with extensions in 1872 from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott, at a cost of £4,500. The lower portion of the interior of the tower has been converted into a richly decorated memorial chapel, and contains a recumbent



Photo by]

GODSTONE CHURCH.

[Miss M. Chapman, Godstone.

effigy in marble of the late Mrs. Barbara St. Clair Macleary, wife of the owner of Pendell Court, who died in 1869. The north chancel chapel contains a very fine seventeenth century altar tomb, with beautiful white marble effigies of Sir John Evelyn and his wife Thomasin in recumbent positions. The knight is represented in plate armour, with a griffin at his feet. A tablet inserted in the north wall of the chancel to the memory of Sarah Smith, who died in 1794, contains a pretty wreath of drooping flowers sculptured by Bacon. The stained east

window commemorates the Rev. C. J. Hoare, a late rector, who was canon and archdeacon of Winchester ; but among the various memorial windows erected in the church, that inserted in the Evelyn chapel to Lady Seymour in 1875 stands pre-eminent as a successful rendering of subdued tone in harmony with brilliant effects of colour and combination. The chancel has a handsome reredos, and a modern carved oak pulpit is the work of a former incumbent, as is the lectern of the present rector.



A VIEW AT WESTERHAM.

Near the church are some pretty almshouses designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, and erected in 1874 by the late Mrs. Hunt, of Wonham House, in memory of her daughter. A short distance to the north, and connected with the church by a field path, is Rook's Nest, at one time the residence of Sir Gilbert Scott, and now that of the Hon. Pascoe Glyn.*

* For a general historical account of the Pilgrims' Way, and complete topographical details of the country districts eastward, the reader is referred to the excellent guide entitled "Wolfe-Land: A Handbook to Westerham," &c., by Gibson Thompson (Beechings Ltd., 6d., and 1s.).

An avenue from the church, by a large embanked sheet of water, known as Pond Bay, conducts us past the well-timbered meadow lands of Godstone Place (E. A. Clowes, Esq.), to the village in the vicinity of the Clayton Arms Hotel, an old coaching house, reputed to exist from the time of Richard II. Godstone is a large, pleasant village, encircling an extensive green, over which several old horse-chestnut and other trees are dispersed. In its neighbourhood are vestiges of some tumuli, and the remains of a fortification are visible at Castle Hill adjoining Leigh Place. An ancient road, supposed to have been Roman, passed from Sussex to Croydon over Tilburstow Hill, through the village, and probably joined the vicinal way at White Hill, a few miles to the north-east.

The Domesday reference to Godstone may be thus rendered :—

“The same Earl (Eustace of Boulogne) holds Wachelestede, which Osward held of King Edward. It was then assessed at 40 hides; now at 6 hides. The arable land amounts to 33 carucates. There are 3 carucates in demesne; and thirty-nine villains, and two bordars, with 22 carucates. There are ten bondmen; and one mill at 6 shillings, and 3 acres of meadow. The wood yields one hundred swine. To this manor belongs fifteen mansions in Sudwerc and London, at 6 shillings, and 2,000 herrings. In the time of King Edward it was valued at 20 pounds, and afterwards at 16 pounds; now at 20 pounds, yet it yields 28 pounds by weight.”

The manor was held by the St. John family in the fourteenth century, and in 1589 was acquired by George Evelyn, Esq., of Wotton, father of the Sir John already mentioned. The estate was afterwards purchased by Charles Boone, Esq., and at a subsequent period came into the possession of the Clayton family, at present represented by Sir William Clayton, of Marden Park.

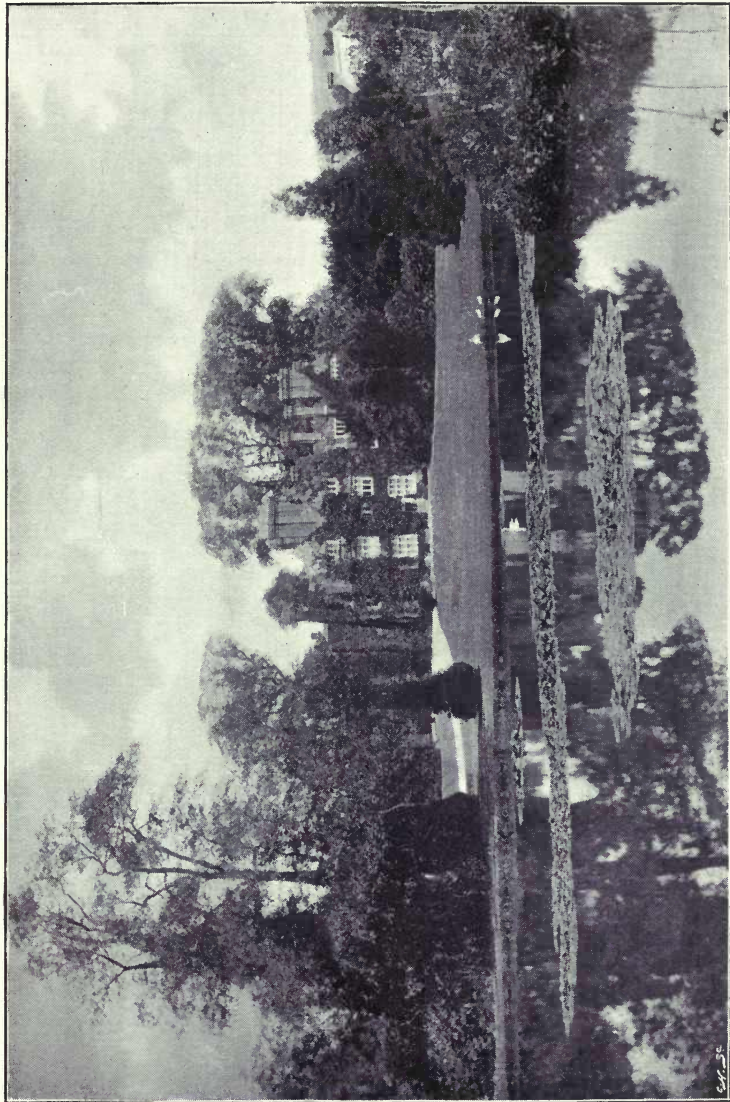
Proceeding by a pathway westward across the village green, we enter the road to Bletchingley, and on the crest of a slight elevation at a point directly opposite Ivy House (P. de Clermont, Esq), a swing-gate on the right bank admits to a field path leading in a north-western

direction. We cross a road at the succeeding gate, and following the continuation of the footway over a stile in front of some cottages, are conducted over well-cultivated lands, with fine open landscape scenery, to a country lane, which proceeds westward in a direct line, and joins the highway known as Brewer Street immediately after passing Place Farm.

Pursuing the southern course of this road for a few hundred yards, we observe on our left the fifteenth-century timbered farmhouse of Bletchingley Place, which formerly constituted the gatehouse of the ancient manor residence, demolished in the seventeenth century. A short distance beyond we follow the road branching to the right, in near proximity to the singularly attractive surroundings of the pleasant old Rectory house (Rev. W. C. Bishop, M.A.), and directly afterwards enter a tree-shadowed lane close by a wayside cottage. This is continued by a footway through beautiful park lands, and quickly brings to view the fine Elizabethan mansion of Pendell Court (W. A. Bell, Esq.) standing amidst a choice environment of "tall ancestral trees." The stately old house is constructed of brick, with stone mullioned windows, and was built by George Holman, Esq., about the year 1624. An ancestor, Sir John Holman, is said to have taken part in the battle of Bosworth. Here we have picturesquely dispersed, singly and in groups, over the undulating slopes of rich park pastures, many remarkable specimens of venerable oaks, lofty elms, and noble beeches. This romantic spot may indeed be styled the Garden of Holmesdale.

Emerging on the public highway, we proceed some few yards northward past the Manor House (Mrs. Wellesley), and before reaching the entrance lodge of Pendell Court, perceive, on an elevated situation directly in front, the handsome red-brick mansion of Pendell House (J. Kendrick, Esq.), which is said to have been built by Richard Glydd in 1636, from the designs of Inigo Jones.

At this point a swing-gate admits to a field path winding along a wooded depression westward, and fine views of sylvan scenery are afforded in all directions.



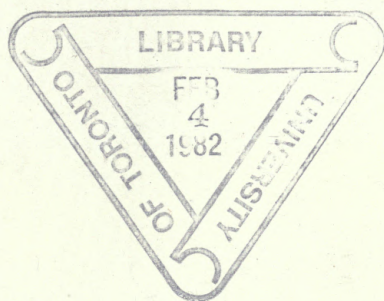
By permission of W. A. Bell, Esq.]

PENDELL COURT.

[Photo by Flint, Redhill.]

We keep to the left over a stile near a few cottages, adjoining extensive osier plantations, when Nutfield Rectory, occupying a prominent position on our left, comes within observation; and thence following a direct route over cultivated fields reach Nutfield Marsh, close by Mercer's Farm. Directing our course across the common towards some solitary cottages at its south-western extremity, we enter here a rural lane, which unites with the road from Nutfield to Merstham very soon after passing the late kennels of the Surrey Stag-hounds and Chilmead Farm. Directly opposite the point thus reached a footpath commences under the outstretched branches of a row of gigantic elms, and pursuing a meandering course through most picturesque woodland surroundings, conducts us to Redhill railway station. When the Town or Market Hall is regained, we terminate an expedition affording varied sources of enjoyment, and introducing to notice many objects of unusual interest.

Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her; 'tis her privilege,
Through all the years of this our life, to lead
From joy to joy: for she can so inform
The mind that is within us, so impress
With quietness and beauty, and so feed
With lofty thoughts, that neither evil tongues,
Rash judgments, nor the sneers of selfish men,
Nor greetings where no kindness is, nor all
The dreary intercourse of daily life,
Shall e'er prevail against us, or disturb
Our cheerful faith, that all which we behold
Is full of blessings.—*Wordsworth.*



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